STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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SUPER FUN

Walkers make dreams come true

PAGE 3

ZOO VIEWS

Calendar is full of animal magic

PAGE 6

BAG SNATCHER BIKER WARNING

A 'COWARDLY' motorcyclist is riding up to pensioners and stealing their handbags before speeding off.

Police this week warned women to be on their guard and urged people connected to the thief to 'forget any loyalties' and give his name to officers.

The brazen thief has struck five times across the Black Country and failed in another attempt.

By Adam Grinsell

The first theft happened at around 9am on September 4, when a woman aged in her 60s was putting her shopping into the boot of her car at Sainsbury's in Sandringham Way, Brierley Hill.

Grabbed

The biker went up to the woman, grabbed her handbag from the trolley and rode off.

Half an hour later a woman in her 70s was waiting at a bus stop on Church Avenue, Amblecote, when she was approached by the motorcyclist, who snatched her handbag from her shoulder.

Just 10 minutes after that another woman, also in her 70s, was waiting at a different bus stop on Church Avenue when she saw a man on a black motorcycle wearing a white helmet pas by. A second biker wearing a black helmet then rode past to join the first rider, before turning back up the road and grabbing the woman's handbag.

Then on September 9, just before noon, again at Sainsbury's on Sandringham Way, a man on an orange scrambler bike grabbed a woman's handbag in the car park and rode off.

Shortly afterwards, on Granville Road, Kingswinford, a woman in her 40s was approached by the biker, who unsuccessfully tried to snatch her handbag.

Ten minutes later, on the same road, the motorcyclist went up to a woman in her 80s and grabbed her bag.

Chief Inspector Nick Rowe said: "These are cowardly crimes carried out against women who are often older in years and the person responsible needs to be brought to justice.

"We have been carrying out patrols in the area and we are looking at CCTV to try and establish the identity of the biker.

"Our initial inquiries lead us to believe there is one main offender, but perhaps two bikes are being used.

"In many of the reports, the bike used is described as having a registration beginning with FX08 or 07 and having distinctive chrome forks.

"I am asking the public to forget any loyalties and think about the vulnerable women who have been attacked.

"I'd urge people to give us a name so we can take this individual off the streets quickly."

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Record turnout for Black Country race

A record number of runners cross the start line of the 10k Black Country Road Race held in Halesowen

HUNDREDS took to the streets of Halesowen in the increasingly-popular Black Country Road Run.

The third such run in in the town, which took place on Sunday and attracted a record number of participants to the 10-kilometre and a five-kilometre runs.

Young and old took part, with some choosing to don fancy dress.

Organiser and Rotarian Alan Bowler said: "We had 800 plus spread across the two runs, which is great. It was a fantastic day, everyone was saying they had a great run.

"It has grown year on year, we had around 460 in the first event and around 600 last year," Mr Bowler added.

Among the masses making their way around the town on the run was famous fundraiser 'Blind Dave' Heeley, from West Bromwich, who was raising money for national diabetes charity JDRF by taking part in the fun run. Also taking part was Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Fundraising teams were also running, such as those from children's charity Barnardo's and Sunfield Children's Home in Clent, to raise much-needed funds.

The 'fun' five-kilometre run was entered by children and their families, and those looking for a slightly less taxing challenge, while the 10-kilometre version was reserved for the more serious runners.

Mr Bowler, who is hoping the event will have raised in excess of £20,000 for the various causes, added: "It's created a great platform to get runners in and raise mone.

"There's a whole community getting involved in this."

The date has already been set for next year's event, to take place on July 5.

Smaller minaret is planned at mosque

FRESH plans have been lodged for a mosque in Dudley as Muslim leaders reveal they have downscaled the size of the development with a shorter minaret

Dudley Muslim Association said instead of a standalone dome, the building will have a curved roof and the minaret will stand at 61ft instead of the original 109ft proposal.

It comes despite an on-going battle between the association and Dudley Council over land in Hall Street, earmarked for the development.

A hearing is due to take place at London's High Court next year.

Outline planning permission was approved for the scheme in 2008 following a planning inquiry. The association had until Saturday to submit a reserved matters planning application to the council.

The overall size of the development has been reduced and leaders say it will not be taller than nearby buildings.

Dudley Muslim Association said the changes had been made 'to address people's concerns over the scale and design of the development'.

Community leaders say they need a modern building to replace the existing mosque on Castle Hill.

£3m drive to recruit nurses

MORE than £3 million will be spent on recruiting extra nurses at Dudley's hospitals.

Bosses at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, also want to reduce the need for expensive agency staff.

In a report presented to Dudley Council's health scrutiny committee on Monday, Paula Clark, chief executive, said the trust will be taking their recruitment drive overseas, as well as taking on local nurses.

Trader is fined for selling dodgy cigs

THOUSANDS of fake and smuggled cigarettes were seized from a Brierley Hill shop by trading standards officers, a court heard.

A sniffer dog helped to uncover 6,820 cigarettes and 29 packs of rolling tobacco, worth more than £4,600 at Eazy Shop in High Street, Brierley Hill.

They did not display the appropriate warning markings and some of the items were counterfeit, Dudley Magistrates Court was told.

Hassan Kadir from the shop admitted a charge of possessing counterfeit tobacco on September 11 last year and was fined £150 and ordered to pay £1,461 costs.

The same shop was visited again by officers in December where they found a further 3,600 cigarettes and 39 packs of rolling tobacco. Safine Peorte Zada who was working at the shop on this occasion, received a conditional discharge at after admitting similar charges on August 21 this year, and was also ordered to pay £900 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

In a separate matter, bosses at Lake Discount Stores, in Lake Street, Lower Gornal, have had their licence to sell alcohol revoked after an undercover check when staff sold alcohol to someone underage.

Fire station demolition

DEMOLITION plans for a Black Country fire station have been approved.

Developer Horgan Homes & Developments Ltd had submitted proposals to knock down Halesowen Fire Station. The firm has already been granted permission to build 14 homes on the site.

Now it will flatten the old station and training tower off Hagley Road. Money from the sale went towards a £3 million replacement station in Cradley Heath.

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Wombourne 1st Windows

For more information see page 10

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Feature	6
Letters	7
Memory Lane	20
Fashion Contest	11
What's On	22
TV Listings	23 - 25
Property	27
Motoring	35
Sport	43 & 44

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Mechanic died underneath his car

AN ENGINEER who was working on his car died when he accidentally pulled the vehicle on top of him.

An inquest heard that Stephen Millington, aged 53, from Halesowen, was working underneath his Alfa Romeo at premises in Quarry Bank where he worked part-time as a mechanic.

Mr Millington's friend Paul Bate, who shared the workshop with him, found him underneath the car on October 11, last year.

Mr Bate said: "He was working on the roll bar and it's very close to the sub frame so he had to take that off.

"There was a 3ft bar by him so what I think happened was he was using the bar to pull it and it fell on top of him."

Mr Bate said Mr Millington, of Hanley Close, would often rush his work as he juggled working as a mechanic with his full-time job as a hospital engineer.

He added: "The day before he had been there alone to work on his car and was going to his caravan for the night before picking up a car in Bewdley for an MOT. I got there about 9.15am and the gates were unlocked but I was expecting to see a Mondeo there, not his car. I could see his legs sticking out from under the car.

"I jacked it up straight away and then went to the motorbike shop next door to call an ambulance."

Senior coroner Robin Balmain said the medical cause of Mr Millington's death was asphyxia after being trapped under a car, and recorded a conclusion that his death was an accident.

Elderly 'trapped' after bus service removed

ELDERLY passengers say they feel 'trapped' after a bus service was removed as part of an overhaul of routes in Dudley and Sandwell.

More than 100 people packed into a small church hall to raise their concerns over the axing of the 297 service by National Express.

The service, which ran through Old Hill and Cradley Heath to Russells Hall Hospital, was ended earlier in the summer after a fall in passenger numbers and problems with reliability.

At the meeting in Old Hill's Our Lady of Lourdes Church, residents vented their frustration at company representative Jack Kelly.

Vulnerable

The 297 previously ran down Station Road and served those in the Lodgefield estate.

Marcia Harris, of Sherbourne Road, was there on behalf of elderly neighbours who can't make it to their nearest bus stop now. She said: "It's for the most vulnerable that we are fighting, they should be thinking about the needs of the community."

Others complained that there is now no direct bus route to the hospital and that they were not consulted properly before the route was discontinued. Some from Coppice Lane in Quarry Bank explained they now cannot get directly to Cradley Heath railway station.

National Express replaced the 297 with two separate services as it said the length of the 297 route was making it unreliable but since the service was removed more than 600 names have been gathered on a petition calling for its reinstatement.

Mr Kelly said he would take the concerns to bosses at National Express, adding: "I'm going to take my notes, speak to the guys, and try to get to the point where I can come back with good news."

Free texts in bid to save NHS time

MORE than 2,500 appointments are missed by patients at Dudley's hospitals every month.

A new text reminder service has been launched to help reduce the number of missed out-patient appointments and keep waiting times down for other patients.

Bosses at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, the Guest Outpatient Centre in Dudley and Corbett Outpatient Centre in Stourbridge said 2,300 hours of clinic time was lost due to patients not attending appointments in April, May and June.

It has been said the average cost of a missed appointment is £80. It is estimated that more than 2,500 sessions are missed every month.

The text reminders will contain the date and time of the appointment as well as location and name of the clinician the patient is due to see. The free service has been introduced in all outpatient clinics.

Paul Assinder, director of finance and information, said the equivalent of 1,000 working days is lost each year due to no-shows.

Rotting waste left in street

Resident Abdul Qadus with some of the rubbish left strewn in the street at Lye

THIS is the sight greeting people as they arrive in Lye – bags of rubbish and rotting waste strewn about close to shops, restaurants and homes.

Now residents are fighting back and want a clean up of the land after they claim the problem has escalated over the summer.

Piles of rubbish bags have been left in roads close to the High Street area near the popular restaurants which make the town famous in the Black Country for its balti dishes.

Many of the flytipped bags had split allowing rotting waste to spill out on the road way in Clinic Drive, near the planned site for a multi-million heath centre.

Resident Abdul Qadus, Chairman of Lye Community Centre, called for a clean up of the site by Dudley Council. "It is disgusting and a disgrace to see ," he said. "People should have more pride in the area."

Mr Qadus has reported the flytipping to Dudley Council and officers are now investigating.

Security to be stepped up after school fire

SECURITY will be stepped up at a derelict school in Blackheath in a bid to stop further arson attacks.

A blaze ripped through the former Holt Farm Primary School earlier this month and police have confirmed it was started intentionally.

The 105-year-old building has been empty since 2006 and residents say it has become a regular target for vandals.

Part of the roof was destroyed by fire which took more than two hours to extinguish. Flames and huge plumes of black smoke were visible for miles around.

Now Dudley Council have promised to increase security around the site to keep vandals out.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for legal and property, said: "The site belongs to the council and we are in talks with a number of developers over the future of the area, which have so far been very positive.

"In the meantime, we are assessing the extent of the damage caused by the fire and looking at ways to improve security to help prevent further incidents. We also ask people to be vigilant and report any problems to

Better access to water fun

A WATER sports centre has opened changing facilities for disabled sports people thanks to a donation.

Dudley Water Sports, based at Lodge Farm Reservoir, Highbridge Road, Netherton, had the two wet rooms built last month.

They were provided by Impey Showers, which helped the centre as it marked its 50th anniversary.

The club was completely renovated earlier this year to bring the centre up to modern standards and to improve access for disabled people.

Art goes on show

AN ART and photography exhibition is being staged at Halesowen, featuring work from people attending classes at the new Age UK Dudley centre in Brierley Hill. The display includes watercolour paintings, acrylics and glass engravings. The exhibition is free to view.

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Officers threatened with a pair of shears

A DRUNK man threatened police officers with a pair of shears, a court heard.

Police arrived at High Street, Wall Heath, on January 31, after they had received reports of a disturbance in a pub, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. They found 28-year-old John Rowley standing in the road with the shears raised above his head.

Mr Gary Cook, prosecuting, said a large group of people had gathered in the street at around 11.20pm.

He said: "When officers got out of the car and told Rowley to surrender he became truculent and started to use abusive and threatening language."

Rowley eventually threw the shears onto the ground but swore and spat at officers while being restrained

Miss Laura Culley, defending, said Rowley had taken the shears to defend himself after his cousin had been assaulted.

Rowley, of Grove Park, Wall Heath, admitted threatening a person with a bladed article. He was given eight months jail sentence suspended for 24 months with 12 months supervision, was placed on a three-month curfew and told to attend an alcohol intervention course.

Landmark for new flats

A MULTI-MILLION pound transformation of a deserted office block was put on view to the public for the first time this week.

Developer Seven Capital has started work converting the former Point North at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, into 181 flats. The company says 30 percent of the apartments have already sold about 30 per cent of the apartments.

A launch party for interested buyers was held at the site, now called The Landmark, and open weekends will be held at the former HQ for insurers Egg.

Hotel is to open

A £9.5 million hotel and pub restaurant will open in Stourbridge on December 1, it has been announced.

Work is progressing on building the Premier Inn and Beefeater pub in Birmingham Street.

The 80-bedroom hotel will create 20 jobs.

Move for school and college to join forces

PLANS for a Stourbridge school and a sixth form college to join forces to form a multi-academy trust have been approved by the Department of Education.

The scheme will see King Edward VI College and Ridgewood High School work together and pool resources, enabling them to apply for additional funding.

A consultation with students, parents, governors and staff will take place before a final decision on whether to move ahead with the scheme is made.

Sharon Phillips, principal at King Edward VI College in Lower High Street, said the option was open for other schools in the area to join forces as part of one large academy trust.

"The plan is still in its early stages and everything is pending the result of the consultation," she said.

Ridgewood's bid to back the plan follows its own unsuccessful attempt for stand-alone academy status earlier this year.

Under the new proposals, the 780-pupil school on Park Road West would become an autonomous academy within the new arrangement, operating outside of local authority control.

Opportunity

Headteacher Clive Nutting said the move could have benefits for the school, which was rated as good in its latest Ofsted inspection in March.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our already successful school to work closely with a high achieving college. We don't have our own sixth form, so one potential advantage is the provision of better opportunities for our students to progress. I believe this proposal has more merit than our previous application."

Mr Nutting said a consultation regarding a move to academy status at the start of this year was met with mixed views. "It will be interesting to see what feedback we get this time around," he added. A six-week consultation is due to be launched this month.

Scheme to help young people move out of home

DUDLEY Council is drawing up a scheme to help young people struggling to buy or rent their own home.

Dudley Council is working on the scheme after revealing 4,115 young people are being forced to stay with their parents when they would prefer their own home, because of a shortage of suitable housing.

Housing bosses say one solution to the problem is to provide a shared housing scheme to bring groups of young people under one roof, giving them the chance to live independently.

By Andrew Turton

Hostel

The council is already working with Midland Heart on a £5.7million plan to redevelop the Gibbs Road House hostel, making way for new 58-bed supported accommodation scheme.

The scheme will open next year and provide a place to stay for people aged between 18 and 44.

There is also support for young people looking for housing from Churches Housing Association of Dudley and District and the Black Country Housing Group.

A supported lodging scheme for people aged between 16 and 24 is run by the Black Country YMCA.

In a report to councillors, Andrea Pope-Smith, director of adult community and housing services, said: "There are no easy answers to addressing the housing issues of young people as currently there is great demand for smaller social housing property types across a range of age groups.

"Some of this pressure can be attributed to welfare reform impacts."

"We are actively seeking opportunities to increase the provision of social housing in the borough by building more council homes."

Council bosses are already looking at ways to widen the type and size of houses built in the borough to bring more variety to the market, especially for first time buyers, those with bigger families and people wanting to downsize.

The authority is implementing a new housing strategy in a bid to tackle the problem by 2016 after it it has increased over recent years.

It comes as some families claim the controversial spare room subsidy scheme, known as the 'bedroom tax', has left them struggling.

More cash for outdoor gym

AN OUTDOOR gym will be created in Coseley after more cash was committed to the project by councillors.

Officials had already proposed building the fitness centre at Clayton Park using around £39,000 of funding, sourced from public heath funds and money paid by developers during building projects in the town. But councillors have committed another £17,000 was needed to bring the park's outdoor gym up to the same standards.

Time for a selfie — family fun as the Walk for Dreams event starts at Himley Hall

Walkers making dreams a reality

THEY came in fancy dress, fluorescent legwarmers, as superheroes and fairytale characters – and they had one goal in mind.

More than 1,000 people walked from Himley Hall tonWolverhampton Racecourse to raise up to £50,000 for charity on Sunday.

Wolves legends Steve Bull, Jody Craddock and Don Goodman were on hand to show their support for the hundreds taking part in the Walk for Dreams event.

Organised by Wolverhampton-based Promise Dreams, the event saw crowds including tributes to Superman, Snow White, nuns and the Jamaican bobsleigh team, trek the ten mile route via Molineux.

Promise Dreams was set up 12 years ago to help terminally-ill children and their families by granting a wish, with the £2.5 million raised so far going to help more than 2,400 families.

Co-founder and Wolverhampton businessman Suresh Bawasaid: "More than 1,000 people have registered and fundraised for the event. The day is a family day and is about having fun,we had lovely weather for it. Every pound that the walkers raise will go direct to help the children. "

NEWS IN BRIEF

£25k facelift hall ready for relaunch

A £25,000 revamp of Dudley Town Hall has been completed. Dressing rooms have been transformed and the St James's Road venue also has new carpets and has been redecorated.

To celebrate the relaunch the council will hold a tea dance today at 11am. Councillor Hilary Bills said: "I'm sure the regular tea dancers will especially appreciate work to the floor."

One of the first to experience the improvements will be comedian John Bishop, who has sold out his show at the hall on October 3.

New operator for council care home

A CARE home in Kingswinford will be transferred to new operators within weeks

More than 5,000 signed a petition to save New Bradley Hall after plans to axe the home surfaced.

Dudley Council did make a U-turn on that decision but pressed ahead with plans to install a new operator – the Blackheath-based Black Country Housing Group – saying the authority could no longer afford to run the home in Compton Drive.

£200k cemetery to aid burial shortage

WORK on a £200,000 cemetery in Dudley to tackle the shortage of burial space in the borough will start this month.

Dudley Council has earmarked a section of land in Clee Road, opposite the existing Dudley Cemetery. The current cemetery has 12 months of burial space left. The new site will have enough space to last over 20 years and cater for all religious needs.

Councillor is to lead park group

A NEW chairman for a park voluntary group has been appointed after helping lead a revamp of King George V Park in Wordsley.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley was appointed chairman of the Friends of Wordsley Park group after previous chairman Chris Enwerem announced he was leaving the area to train to become a vicar.

Education centre

A TUITION centre for children has opened in Stourbridge, creating 20 jobs. Explore Learning is the final shop to open at the Crown Shopping Centre. It will provide maths and English tuition.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A DAILY Telegraph reader announced this week she had already posted her Christmas cards to friends in Scotland, just in case by December overseas postage rates might apply.

PUZZLED why the United States has kept well out of Russia's slow-motion invasion of Ukraine? A clue came this week when Nasa announced it had chosen two private spacecraft to fly its crews to the International Space Station. This is a reminder that, since the withdrawal of the Shuttles, the US has had to rely on Russian rockets to get into space. And if you're going anywhere important it's a golden rule that you must never fall out with the driver.

A REPORT reveals that thousands of customers tell lies to get car insurance. Some claim they have no convictions, others claim to be living at a false address. But if insurance customers are dodgy, what about insurance companies? I have just been to France, clutching a travel-insurance policy which included the fact that I had high blood pressure. But it also excluded any claims from customers undergoing medical tests or waiting for the results of tests. So tell me - how can anyone know they have high blood pressure without tests? Once diagnosed with high blood pressure you are, by definition, in for a lifetime of tests.

JOHN Bradshaw, an anthrozoologist, tells the Radio Times that cats are stressed by making them share houses with other cats and expecting too much of them. This will come as a puzzle to most cat owners who spend their time dashing from home to workplace, to supermarket to school run while the moggie spends 18 hours a day snoozing on the sofa. If this is stress, I want some.

ANTHROZOOLOGISTS? No, I can't find them in Yellow Pages either.

JOAO Magueijo is a Portuguese academic who has lived in Britain for more than 20 years and just written a book (sadly not yet translated from Portuguese) about those frightful Brits. He says we are a bunch of violent, sex-mad, lardarse alcoholics with revolting personal hygiene, riddled with self-destructive xenophobia and addicted to drinking "hot, dirty water," or tea, as we call it. So far, so good. Sadly, Magueijo spoils the effect by insisting his book is all tongue-in-cheek and he actually loves Britain and the Brits. Curious. For a moment there, he seemed to be rather close to the truth.

DO some NHS staff deliberately leak patients' private details to commercial companies? That is the obvious explanation for all those "coincidental" phone calls, reported by dozens of readers of this column, from compensation lawyers, stairlift firms and suchlike, which are received within days of receiving hospital treatment. Here's the latest. A reader tells me his wife had a fall a few days ago. After treatment at A&E, she attended the fracture clinic the following day. He reports: "After treatment we proceeded to the exit where her mobile went off. It was a text asking her if she had had an accident recently." He describes this as "a bit suspicious." I would go further. I would suggest someone at the hospital is on the take. The NHS says such conduct is a sacking offence but I'm not aware of anyone ever being sacked. Any similar examples?

AT Calais the port is surrounded by high steel fences. Two pathetic shredded strips of cloth hang from the razor wire, fluttering in the breeze and marking the place where some would-be migrant's dreams came to an end. At the coach park by the wine warehouse, half-hidden in the trees, groups of young Africans stalk like wolves, looking for any unguarded vehicle. The lottery of life is as unfair as ever.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Duke of York in visit to E&S offices

Five apprentices join the E&S

THE Duke of York Prince Andrew was due to visit the Express & Star's Wolverhampton headquarters this week to give his backing to the Ladder for the Black Country campaign.

His Royal Highness is patron of the scheme encouraging businesses to take on apprenticeships to solve high levels of youth unemployment.

The campaign, launched in the Express & Star last week, is off to a flying start with 80 apprenticeships created on the first day alone. And many other firms are now in talks with the campaign after a public launch at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's annual exhibition.

The Duke will meet with young people already taking their first steps on the job ladder.The Express & Star has joined forces with the Vine Trust, Performance Through People, and the Black Country Chamber of Commerce to help young people.

Visit – Prince Andrew

Firms' rush to help young is just the iob

By Rob Golledge

FIRMS are queuing up to back the Ladder for the Black Country scheme to create new apprenticeships after the campaign's public launch.

Scores of business leaders from across the region got their first taste of the scheme at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's annual exhibition at a packed Wolverhampton Racecourse.

Backed by the Duke of York Prince Andrew, the Express & Star has teamed up with the Vine Trust, a charity that is already helping to get young people into work, to create new apprenticeships.

Training provider Performance Through People (PTP), the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and Ikea Wednesbury are also leading partners. At the time of going to press there had been 107 apprenticeship enquiries and 18 company enquiries.

Response

The newspaper itself has taken on five new apprentice journalists. Editor Keith Harrison said: "The Express & Star is proud to head up the Ladder for the Black Country, to drive home the message that apprenticeships work."

Campaign partner Kevin Davis, chief executive of the Vine Trust, gave an introductory speech at the launch, urging businesses to work together and get on board. Eighty apprenticeships have already been pledged by Accord Group, Walsall Housing Group, Ikea, and the Express & Star.

Ladder for the Black Country partner Gill Durkin, business development director for Performance Through People, said: "There has been an excellent response and we have had interest from organisations who want to get involved in all sorts of ways.

"We have had plenty of businesses sign up – it has been a real success. Once we sit down and talk with some of the companies we will know how many overall the event has created. But the pledges we have already received is fantastic."

Margaret Corneby, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "Apprenticeships have had their ups and downs, especially with employers, but I think there is an awful lot of good work and some very good success stories to inspire young people.

"The Ladder for the Black Country is not about all those companies that already have apprenticeships, it is about encouraging all those businesses that have never thought about them," she added. "There are a lot of companies out there who think it is too much paperwork or time to take on an apprentice.

"But what the Ladder for the Black Country has done has created a clearing centre – making it that much easier."

Ninder Johal, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and member of the Local Enterprise Partnership, said the Black Country needed to close a skills gap.

The number of young people out of work in the Black Country is the highest in the country, with more than 8,000 18 to 24-year-olds in the dole queues each week.

Official figures show youth unemployment in the Black Country is more than double the national average, with Wolverhampton having the longest dole queues in England. Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley also all feature in the top 12 youth unemployment blackspots.

A website and call centre has been set up by PTP. Both young people and businesses can call the Ladder for Black Country hotline on 03332 409 699, or go to the website ladderfortheblackcountry.co.uk

Plenty of interest at the launch of the scheme at the exhibition

LADDER FOR THE BLACK COUNTRY
www.ladderfortheblackcountry.co.uk

Kevin Davis of the Vine Trust

The team behind the Ladder for the Black Country campaign at the launch

Bus death man was looking other way

A GRANDFATHER who died after being hit by a bus stepped out in front of the moving vehicle while looking in the other direction

Michael Wilkinson walked out in front of the single-deck bus about a second before being struck at the junction of King Street and Flood Street in Dudley.

The 69-year-old, of Highfield Road, Kates Hill, suffered serious injuries and died the following day at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Pc Paul Robbins, a collision investigator, told the inquest in Smethwick that there were five cameras on the bus which recorded the accident near the entrance of the Churchill Shopping Centre on March 24.

He said the traffic light at the junction was showing green for the bus, which was moving at between 15 and 16mph. The speed limit on the road is 20mph.

The officer said Mr Wilkinson stepped out at a crossing at the junction. He added: "It shows him looking to his left, away from the bus. The last image of the man still shows him looking to his left. He was knocked off his feet and came to rest on the road."

Assistant coroner Zafar Siddique concluded he died as a result of the road traffic collision.

Rider thrown from machine

A MOTORCYCLIST was seriously injured after being thrown 20ft from his three-wheeled bike in a crash with a bin lorrry in Dudley.

David Clarke was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham following the accident at the junction of Stourbridge Road and Wellington Road last week. He suffered a head injury and a suspected fractured pelvis.

Police closed Stourbridge Road for five hours after the crash for investigation and to recover the two vehicles.

The lorry driver was not injured.

Fair for children

PREPARATIONS are under way for an autumn fair in Sedgley in aid of a children's charity.

The event on Saturday, October 4, at Sedgley parish hall in Vicar Street will raise money for the Children's Society. It is free admission and is on from 11am to 2pm.

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More are opposing waste to energy bid

DOZENS more people have joined a campaign against a proposed waste into energy plant.

Opposition is building against the proposal for land off Moor Street in Brierley Hill after Clean Power resubmitted a planning application. The company changed its plans to include internal air-locks at three vehicle entrances to the planned building in a bid to ease residents' concerns over smells

An initial planning application was thrown out by Dudley Council amid fears over odours from the site. Now they will look at the new scheme.

About 80 people turned up to a meeting organised by Say No to the Waste Site at Hawbush Primary School last week. Rachel Harris, chairman of the group, said: "We were delighted with the turn-out at the meeting. We saw dozens of new faces who want to support what we are doing. "

The firm says it will process about 195,000 tons of waste a year, creating energy for up to 10,000 homes, and creating 34 jobs.

A spokesman said: "It is needed so that the area does not continue landfilling and burning waste."

Man facing porn charges

A MAN from Kingswinford has appeared in court facing 10 charges related to indecent images of children.

George Clarke, aged 59, of The Portway, Kingswinford, appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court last week.

Clarke faces six charges of making indecent images of a child, one of distributing an indecent image of a child and three of possessing an indecent image of a child.

He also faces one charge of possessing extreme pornography.

The case was adjourned for Clarke to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court next month.

Helping to quit

HELP is on hand for smokers wanting to quit. Dudley Stop Smoking Service is supporting the Stoptober campaign, o offering advice from 10am to 2.30pm today at Asda, Brierley Hill; Tesco Stourbridge on Tuesday; Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen on October 1.

Former Euro MP in court after police inquiry

Nikki Sinclaire leaves

A FORMER UKIP MEP has appeared before magistrates accused of a money laundering offence after a police inquiry into her travel expenses.

Nikki Sinclaire, who lost her seat in the European Parliament earlier this year, also faces a charge of committing misconduct in a public office.

Sinclaire spoke only to confirm her full name, address and date of birth during a three-minute hearing at Birmingham Magistrates' Court last week.

The 45-year-old, whose lawyer said she strongly denied the allegations, was not required to enter a formal plea to either of the charges.

Dressed in black trousers, a blue scarf and a dark jacket, Sinclaire, who lives in Shirley, Solihull, was granted unconditional bail to appear before a judge at Birmingham Crown Court on January 7.

Sinclaire was charged in July this year after a two-and-a-half-year inquiry by West Midlands Police and the European Anti-Fraud Office.

The money laundering charge against Sinclaire, brought under the Proceeds of Crime Act, alleges that she converted criminal property between October 2009 and December 2010.

Claims

Prosecutors further allege that Sinclaire committed misconduct between October 2009 and July 2010 'in that she made or caused to be made' false and dishonest claims for travelling expenses.

Sinclaire lost her seat as an MEP for the West Midlands in last May's European elections after leaving UKIP and standing for the We Demand a Referendum Now party.

During the hearing, her solicitor-advocate, Regan Peggs, said both "linked" charges would be denied.

The ex-MEP has previously described the allegations as "ludicrous" and unfounded.

In a statement in July, Sinclaire said she would be firmly defending herself against the charges.

£5m scheme to tackle tailbacks near hospital

A £5 million project aimed at easing congestion on a busy road near Dudley's main hospital has been announced.

Around 30,000 vehicles travel along Pensnett High Street each day, including large delivery lorries going to and from trading estates.

But Dudley Council has drawn up major plans to relieve tailbacks along the route passing Russells Hall Hospital.

Officials want to increase safety for motorists and pedestrians.

The project would see two sets of traffic lights introduced at junctions with Tansey Green Road and High Oak.

There would also be road widening to enable two lanes ahead of the lights and new pedestrian crossings.

It is hoped that these measures will allow for a free flow of traffic and improve safety for turning vehicles.

Delays

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "These major improvements to Pensnett High Street will help to reduce delays and congestion, improve road safety, air quality, pedestrian links and safety, as well as making sure that bus services are more reliable.

"The work is expected to start in January 2017 and, while this may seem a way off, what we want to do is share the more finalised version of the plans with those who live, work or shop in the area so views can be obtained.

"We will liaise with the community, motorists, shops and businesses."

As part of the project, Bradley Street, Birds Meadow and Tansey Green Road would be made left-turn only and High Oak would be right-turn only to the High Street.

Fresh idea offers food for thought

A NEW scheme aimed at making it easier for shoppers to pick healthier options has been launched at several convenience stores.

Dudley Council's office of public health is working with small retailers to encourage them to sell healthier foods and make it easier for customers to spot them.

So far seven shops across the borough have signed up to the Shop Healthy scheme and more are looking to get on board in the coming weeks.

Those who sign up are pledging to stock healthier foods, such as a range of fresh fruit and vegetables, healthier breakfast cereals and healthier grab-and-go items such as pasta salads and sandwiches.

Healthier items will be given greater prominence in-store and appear under the Shop Healthy logo. Stores will also provide recipe cards to help customers with healthy meal ideas.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, said:"We want everyone in Dudley to make healthier lifestyle choices."

Massive foghorn is on the way to cone

Sandwell Council's Garry Morris gets a blast of the foghorn at Oak House before it moves to Wordsley

IT was once a symbol of Black Country engineering, keeping ships safe at sea. Now a replica of the famous Sandwell Foghorn is coming to Wordsley to go on display.

It was made by Ian Moran, a blacksmith and artist based in Cradley Heath. The replica was created three years ago as part of an art project celebrating Black Country heritage.

The giant structure has been standing outside the Oak House in West Bromwich. The idea came from workshops with residents and community groups as part of the Forging Links scheme. It was funded by £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £20,000 from the Museums Library and Archives Council and £5,000 from Forging Links, the Sandwell-based museums and arts project.

The 19ft long horn, with a diameter of 9ft, was created from designs used by the historic Chance Brothers glassworks in Smethwick. Chance Brothers established a major lighthouse engineering company in the 19th Century.

Garry Morris, one of those who commissioned the replica, said it was a chance to take a closer look.

Mr Morris said: "Putting on a display like this gives people the chance to see just how large it is.

"It takes hours to assemble. We have to put it together using nuts and bolts. We like to tour it around the area and show it off. "

It will be on display outside the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley until the end of November as part of the Black Country Echoes Festival, celebrating the area's industrial heritage.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Attraction plans a children's entrance

AN ENTRANCE for thousands of schoolchildren visiting The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley could be opened next year, as visitor numbers rise at the Tipton Road attraction.

Bosses at the museum want to open a single-storey entrance building at the southern end of the site where coachloads of children will head to the entrance using a link road from Castle Hill.

The building will include toilets and a lecture room, and it awaiting planning approval.

New-look pub is ready to open

AN UPPER Gornal pub is re-opening today after a major refurbishment that began in the spring.

The former Old Mill in Windmill Street has been re-named The Mill by owners Woodsetton based Holden's Brewery to reflect its new look.

The building, which is more than 100 years old, closed on March 17 for the improvement work.

The roof has been replaced, new flooring has gone in and the car park has been re-surfaced.

Man stabbed in High Street fight

POLICE are investigating after a man suffered a stab wound when a fight broke out on Dudley High Street.

Police found a 36-year-old man with a small puncture wound to his chest at around 5.30pm last Monday, September 15.

The ambulance service was called and he was treated for his injuries, not believed to be serious.

Police are appealing for information.

Boot camp fitness sessions at centre

PEOPLE can push themselves to the limits with a free boot camp fitness session.

Incorporating various pieces of equipment including tyres and ropes, the free trial session will run at Dudley Leisure Centre today from 5.30pm to 6.15pm.

For more information call (01384) 812800.

Museum history

THERE will be an illustrated talk on the history of the Black Country Museum from David Baker in Kingswinford Library, Market Street, on Wednesday, October 8, at 2.30pm. Admission to the talk is £3.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

WHEN I drove past my old school last week, the one thing that struck me was how much it had changed.

Not changed in the way that most places have in 30-odd years, but changed in the sense of its character, to an extent that it is now virtually unrecognisable.

Like many schools, much of the playing fields have been built on, with huge new extensions dwarfing the original buildings.But most noticeable of all is the steel collar of formidable-looking railings which now enclose the school grounds. About 7ft of dull, grey steel with sharp, menacing spikes. Yes, I know schools have had to up their security after the Dunblane massacre, but does it have to look quite so forbidding?

Which brings me to Redhill School in Stourbridge, which has come up with a very innovative way of making children eat their greens – by taking their fingerprints to monitor their eating habits.

To be honest, I began to feel uncomfortable when I began to read stories about children having chocolate biscuits confiscated by teachers at break time. Yes, we all know there is a problem with obesity in schools but is it really the role of teachers to become some sort of diet police?

Apparently other schools use some form of biometric system to keep tabs on the youngsters. But at a time when we constantly hear of schools complaining they are short of money, surely there are better things they could have spent £20,000 on? Like, I dunno, textbooks or chalk?

Yes, times change, and maybe the innocence of childhood is not where it was, but how did we get to the point where children spend their days surrounded by yards and yards of forbidding grey steel and are fingerprinted before they are allowed to eat their lunch. To be honest, that sounds not so much like a school to me. And more like an open prison.

On the subject of things not being what they used to be, Vauxhall has announced it is bringing back the Viva name for it's new city car.

The Viva, fondly remembered by many readers as a stylish, nippy small car for drivers discerning enough to choose it over the ubiquitous Ford Escort, and sane enough to choose it over the Austin Allegro with its square steering wheel.

And it was also the last Vauxhall designed in Britain, before the company became totally absorbed into the German Opel division.

Sadly, the new Viva won't be built in Britain, it won't be designed in Britain, in fact it won't be British at all. It will simply be a reskinned Chevrolet Spark (which is really a Daewoo, built in South Korea, and sold outside Britain as the Opel Karl).

Still, makes you proud to be British, doesn't it?

Sumatran tigress Daseep by Kathryn Willett

Dudley's ever alert meerkats by Tracy Davis

Columbian black spider monkeys by Talvinder Chohan

Getting snappy for zoo calendar

ALICE CHARLES gets a sneak preview of Dudley Zoological Gardens' 2015 calendar at its launch event

IF it flies, swims, purrs or squawks, then photographers from across the West Midlands have snapped it.

So when Dudley Zoological Gardens offered amateur photographers the chance to have their work displayed, hundreds jumped at the chance.

Thirteen lucky winners saw their work published in the 2015 calendar, while seven runners-up also received praise for their work. The winning pictures were selected from more than 200 entries from across the region.

The competition marked the first time the zoo had opened up the calendar to members of the public.

The calendar launch took place at a reception at the zoo's newly-installed outdoor gallery next to the tiger enclosure and was presided over by animal-mad Daniel Higgins, of Brierley Hill, who has helped raise cash for tiger conservation in the wild.

Ambassador

"Daniel is a great ambassador for Dudley Zoological Gardens, he's a regular visitor, so we were delighted when he agreed to do the official ribbon cutting," said Jill Hitchman, head of media and communications at Dudley Zoo.

Daniel was presented with a life-size stuffed tiger toy as a thank you. "I love Dudley Zoo and this is my best toy ever, I'm going to put it on my bed and think of all my favourite zoo animals before I go to sleep," he said.

Six-year-old Daniel succeeded in raising more than £200 through a sponsored onesie walk. His mother Donna Lane took the winning cover shot of a male Sumatran tiger. "Joao is simply beautiful, he's won my heart. This image captures his shy character as he explores his surroundings," she said.

Animal-crazy Daniel Higgins, aged 6, of Brierley Hill, launches the new calendar

Ms Hitchman said: "Within Dudley Zoological Gardens' 1,300-strong collection, we hold some of the most endangered animals on the planet.

"We're very privileged to share the lives of these magnificent creatures within the sanctuary that Dudley Zoological Gardens has offered since 1937. It's a passion endorsed by our loyal supporters and that's who we asked to provide this year's calendar shots. Competition was tough and it was a difficult task as standards were very high, but in the end I whittled it down to 12 monthly images, plus a front cover and seven runners-up shots that I felt should be included," she added.

"The images offer a glimpse of the wide range of animals at Dudley Zoological Gardenss," she said. "The calendars are available in the Safari Gift Shop, at £8.99, and sales are going very well."

Dudley Zoological Gardens' 40-acre site is home to a large collection of endangered species.

January's delightful image of a beautiful Sumatra tigress was taken by Kathryn Willett from Dudley. "She's the most awesome, photogenic tiger you will ever meet, it didn't take long to take the shot. I just have a bridge camera, Nikon P510," she said. "I sent three in and as Daseep is my favourite, it just made it even better. I've adopted her, I just adore her."

Becki Arnott from Lower Gornal took an arresting picture of bearded dragon Percy featured for February. Paul Cox from Kingswinford took a charming photograph of Bornean orang utan, Sprout which appears on March.

Jade Price from Cheltenham took April's beautiful picture of a Carpathian lynx.Vickie Fellows from Dudley describes herself as a "purely amateur" photographer and she took May's cheeky picture of Humboldt penguin, Peter. "I find penguins charming little characters," she said.

Talvinder Chohan from Birmingham took June's loveable picture of Columbian black spider monkeys. He said. "Within this image of Columbian black spider monkeys the same curiosity and inquisitiveness shared by all primates is reflected in a moment to which we can all relate."

July's image of ever-popular meerkats was captured by Tracy Davis from Birmingham using just her iPhone. Katie Edwards from Wombourne took a stunning picture for August of a Chilean flamingo adopting its trademark one-legged pose. Parnia Navabpour took September's image of a Sulawesi crested macaque and Karen Edwards from West Bromwich an engaging photograph of red panda, Yasmin, for October.

The picture of African spotted eagle owl, Kaiser, for November was taken by Ness Chapman of Sutton Coldfield. Steve Weaver from Rubery tookDecember's picture of snow leopard, Nanga.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THE fate of the United Kingdom rested last week in the hands of a population smaller than that of the West Midlands.

It was right that it was just the Scots who decided on their nation's future as part of a family or on its own. The question now turns to south of the border.

In a late intervention to swing the vote in favour of No, the main party leaders promised Scotland the equivalent of Home Rule. Now it's time to wonder about England.

Public spending is £8,498 per head in the West Midlands, compared to £10,152 in Scotland. To put that in perspective, if the 5,602,000 people in the West Midlands had the same spending as Scotland they would get an extra £9,265,708,000 a year.

That's about 17 rebuilds of Birmingham's New Street station paid for every 12 months.

The West Midlands has proved that it is more than capable of pulling itself up by its boot straps when the Government gives it the right tools. Take, for example, the JLR engine plant on the Wolverhampton/Staffordshire border. Councils joined forces and agreed to fund the £36.7 million slip road from the M54 motorway – a key sweetener in attracting JLR to the site – by using the business rates they will collect as a way to pay off the investment.

But too much development has relied upon going cap-in-hand to Whitehall. And how many times have the hopes been dashed because governments just would not release the cash?

But with the Scots now about to receive more power it's time we ask the question: What about us?

Ian Austin is not an MP who is afraid to speak his mind, even if it does not necessarily fit the current party line.

He has long been calling for a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU and thinks it should be held before the General Election. He also thinks there should be tough action on illegal immigration.

So far, so common sense. And with a key marginal constituency in Dudley North, Mr Austin knows that it won't just be his core Labour supporters he needs to keep on side but the floating voters too.

UKIP knows this as well. But Mr Austin's opponent Bill Etheridge seems mightily miffed that the Labour MP is saying some of the same things that UKIP has.and thinks he ought to switch sides.

Mr Austin, of course, dismisses the idea utterly.

It's perhaps not the best strategy by UKIP to draw attention to the fact that a Labour MP can and does support the same 'common sense' arguments as it does, while also being a member of one of the biggest parties that could form either the Government or the main opposition.

Elderly penalised for holidaying abroad

MY wife and I booked a two week holiday abroad this week, and knowing that travel agencies blatantly rip you off where travel and holiday insurance costs are concerned, we chose to look elsewhere for cover.

We are a couple in our late seventies and, like many other people of our age, we have underlying medical conditions which means travel insurance costs are being loaded very much in favour of the insurers. We have just been quoted a figure that is equivalent to 25 percent of the original cost of the holiday.

Our medications are routinely prescribed by doctors to people of retirement age for ailments that might or might not occur.

Having lived in Britain and paying National Insurance contributions all my life, I feel I am being penalised for holidaying abroad rather than Rhyl, God forbid. In effect, I lose my National Insurance rights while holidaying abroad, and any medical costs, other than those covered by European health card provision, have to met by the insurer and, by association, me.

J B WALDRON
Stourbridge

Bus pass is a necessity for OAPs

AS A PENSIONER I say to the powers that be — keep your hands off our bus passes.

Most of us don't drive or own a car, so a bus pass is a great help to us who use one.

It can be used to go shopping, visiting friends, or going to the doctors.

We pensioners spend a lot of money shopping at the towns that we may visit.

If the Government wish to save money stop giving it away to other countries and every immigrant that arrives on our shores.

Our pensions have not been keeping pace with inflation, so a bus pass helps us a bit more.

R OWEN
Bilston

Call to sack doorstep smokers

IT'S about time employers woke up — wherever we go, my husband and I always bump into staff smoking. When they employ these people they should ask if you smoke. They should sack people who smoke as it lingers on clothes, breath, etc.

We have never smoked, we are 25 and 30-years-old and we think it's disgusting. All these kids who smoke at school don't know what they are doing to their bodies for later life.

I work at Kidderminster Hospital and see the people who come in with breathing problems.

I'm glad they banned it in pubs, cafes, etc. There's a lot of staff in Stourbridge alone who stand outside when they should be working.

I'm glad my children, of which I've got five, don't smoke or drink. They don't waste their money.

We would be glad when it's banned in shopping centres up and down the country.

N WILKINSON
Hagley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Islam advocates love and respect not doctrine of hate

THE appalling murder of David Haines at the hands of a British follower of ISIS is a horrific act of evil.

Islam advocates love, respect and peace and this abhorrent murder again exposes that ISIS has nothing to do with Islam, faith or any other religion.

It is barbarity at its worst.

We stand united with people of United Kingdom in unequivocally condemning this gruesome killing and hope that those responsible are caught and face the full force of the law.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, under the guidance of our Caliph, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, categorically reject extremists, wherever they may be, whatever their cause.

We believe in love for all and hatred for none, and that inter-faith and international dialogue is the only way to cultivate understanding and harmony between people.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of David Haines, may God provide solace and strength to the bereaved and to his loved ones. Amen.

E TOBAN
President Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Midlands Region UK

Thank you Severn Trent

ON Tuesday, September 9, realising that our shared sewer pipe was blocked and in the knowledge that recent changes in the status of drainage pipes have been made, I telephoned Severn Trent at 3pm, who accepted liability and promptly sent out two workmen, who arrived and cleared the blockage by 5pm.

Many thanks to Sue and all involved for an excellent service.

They even rang back in the evening to check whether the work had been done!

M SMITH
Halesowen

Quarry Bank Celtic FC when winnersof the C M Cartwright Celtic Cup in 1994

Nice on Cyril... Mr Cartwright with some of his awards

Quarry Bank Celtic FC with the Division 2 Cup and the Mallin Charity Cup in 1946

Quarry Bank Celtic FC won three trophies in 1947

Cyril and football VIPs including Wolves hero Stan Cullis

Cyril celebrates 70 years of service to football, both on and off the pitch

FOR many local club football is a pleasurable way to spend Saturday mornings but for one Brierley Hill man it has been the most important thing in life for 70 years.

From kit man to caterer 86-year-old Cyril Cartwright, a founding member of Quarry Bank Celtic back in 1944, has covered every position imaginable.

West Bromwich Albion fan Cyril said: "I've been a manager, trainer, player, secretary and everything else. I drove the teams to away matches, put out refreshments and even washed the kits, although I didn't really like that job."

Whilst he occasionally took to the field, actually kicking the ball wasn't his forte. Cyril said: "I remember one time I was called up to play in a game and there was a talent scout there. I wasn't really very good at playing football and when the scout came over for a chat the lads all joked that they must have been desperate."

MEMORY LANE

By Charlie Benton

Cyril's skill was to be found in the administrative side of the game and as well as Quarry Bank he was also chief executive of the Midland Combination League and in recent years has been involved in the Kidderminster and District League. Cyril is involved with the running of the Dudley Metro Cup, for which he is treasurer.

Donate

He said: "We donate money to the Russells Hall Hospice and Corbett Hospital and altogether I think we've raised about £15,000.

"We are able to do it because the running costs are quite low, we get the ground for free and such, and that means we can donate more."

Quarry Bank Celtic was forced to close in 2005 but Cyril said has fond memories.

Outside of football Cyril began his working life at Blackheath goods yard in Rowley Regis and worked as a porter before moving on to work on lorries in Stourbridge.

Cyril worked as a lorry driver, a skill he put to good use driving Quarry Bank to games when necessary.

He later worked as a foreman, supervisor and in Customs and Excise before he retired at 60.

For his 40th and 50th milestones for service to football administration Cyril received commendations.

He said: "I didn't want to kick up a fuss of course and didn't really expect much but recognition is always nice."

Now, in his 70th year of service, he is still very much active in the world of local football.

He said: "I do it because I enjoy it, it has always been the most important thing in my life and always will be."

Cyril said his most difficult time in the game was when he was called to referee a women's match .

"There was talk that the match was going to be a bit heated and the original referee dropped out. I was drafted in to replace him and I've never been so scared in all my life.

"I awarded a penalty in the first five minutes which didn't go down too well and I couldn't wait to get off the pitch.

"Mind you, they gave me the man-of-the-match award, which was rather nice of them."

Cricket

Alongside his football career, Cyril said he was also vice president for Amblecote Cricket Club, and even ran as a Conservative councillor for Brierley Hill.

Despite suffering some health issues recently Cyril said he doesn't plan on slowing down.

Cyril said: "I have spent a little bit of time in hospital but when I was there there was a chap who said that he wished he could move as well as I could. I have to remind myself that there are those worse off than me."

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Exhibition celebrates town's glass heritage

Mayor of Dudley Margaret Aston is seen admiring examples of the work of glass artist Georgia Redpath

CRAFTED to echo the stunning pieces that Stourbridge glass makers have created for centuries, these works of art are now on display as part of a festival celebrating the industrial heritage of the Black Country.

The beautiful pieces of glass have been created over the last six months to bring together a collection, known as Objets D'Art, which will be shown at various venues around the Black Country until next year.

The exhibition has been put togetherfor the Black Country Echoes Festival celebrating the industrial heritage of the area and is on display at Dial Glassworks, Stewkins, Amblecote.

The exhibits have been created by four artists based at Ruskin Studios in Stourbridge; Carol Griffin, Georgia Redpath, Terri Colledge and Jo Newman. The exhibition is particularly special for Mrs Colledge, who is Black Country born and bred. The Coseley-based artist said: "It's been great to be involved with this because we have been able to look at the different ways of working, and explore the traditional methods."

The exhibition is at Dials until October 3, then moves to the Ruskin Glass Centre until January when it will be taken to Dudley Archives. See www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk website.

Terri Colledge with her engraved work

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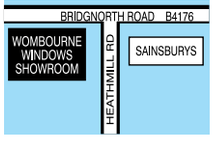

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Taxi drivers help raise £1k for hospital eye unit

Taxi boss Shaz Saleem with eye clinic staff nurse Somia Kauser after borough cab drivers helped raise £1,155

MORE than £1,000 has been raised for hospital patients by taxi drivers who swapped their cabs for the football field in a charity tournament.

Taxi drivers put their footy skills to the test as they matched up for the annual DudleyTaxi Association cup, which this year was held at The Dell Stadium, Pensnett.

Organisers wanted to raise money for a cause close to home this year and picked Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. In total, £1,155 was raised through the generosity of the drivers' passengers over recent weeks and the cash will be going to the eye unit at the hospital, after the drivers learned of the hard work by staff to help glaucoma patients.

Teams entered the tournament from taxi firms Express of Halesowen, Beacon of Sedgley, ABC of Dudley, Elite of Lye, Falcon of Stourbridge, Crown of Brierley Hill and A2B of Lye.

Organiser, Shaz Saleem, who is chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said the tournament had been a real success.

"We are so grateful to our customers who helped us raise this money," he said. "Last year we raised money for Birmingham Children's Hospital, yet this year we thought we would look to support a cause in the borough.

"We heard about the work to treat glaucoma from our customers and realised it was such a worthwhile cause.

"When we heard about all the good work done at Russells Hall Hospital we decided to raise money for them again, in the future for other departments."

Elite Taxis took the title at the six a-side tournament this month beating Falcon 1-0 in the final.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

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"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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Victorian magic lights up meeting

Coven WI

THERE was a good turnout at the September meeting. The president welcomed everyone, Jerusalem was sung, the previous minutes were read confirmed and correspondence were read and tabled for members' information.

The Victorian evening was excellent and the meal in August at the bistro was enjoyed by those who attended.

The president welcomed Brian Morris who presented a Victorian magic lantern show. He was suitably dressed in Victorian attire and he brought along his hand operated Victorian magic lantern and a large variety of glass slides which depicted all aspects of Victorian life.

Brian, the ultimate showman, encouraged audience participation with questions and chatter; some members were delighted that it brought back memories of their childhood while attending Sunday School.

There were slides of the seaside and old bathing huts, formal family portraits, beautiful babies in large coach built prams, London scenes with trams, old bicycles of the 1800s and so much more.

Brian has been collecting slides for more than 25 years.

Refreshments followed a raffle and a sales table, with money raised going to the First Responders.

Shaun Beech from the PDSA will be the guest at the October 14 meeting, at Coven Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Ladies serve up a treat for cyclists

Some of the ladies who served refreshments for the cyclists at Bobbington Village Hall

Trysull & Seisdon WI

ALTHOUGH there was no meeting in August, the club did have two events which were very enjoyable.

The first was an outing on the Churnet Valley railway, which included a cream tea. The members also enjoyed another cream tea at the Angel café in Tettenhall after taking part in a treasure hunt organised by president Sue Cotterell. Both outings were well attended giving the ladies a chance to meet up over the summer.

A couple of months earlier, committee members served refreshments at Bobbington Village Hall to hundreds of cyclists who took part in a ride to raise money for Brewood scout hut. The September meeting was a fish and chip supper followed by a Harvest Auction. Everyone had been very generous bringing produce and other items for the table.

Clare Preece was the auctioneer and there was a lot of banter and laughter while bids were being made. The competition for an autumn arrangement was won by Rita Brown, and Mary Westwood won the raffle.

On Thursday October 9, shoeboxes will be filled for Operation Christmas Child. Meetings are at 7.30pm at the village hall.

Speaker's delightful talk

Quarry Bank E TWG

CHAIRMAN Vera Wright gave a warm welcome to all present at the July meeting.

The meeting progressed as usual with the reading and signing of the previous month's minutes. The treasurer's report was also given.

A letter from Compton Hospice giving thanks for the donation received via Mr Mike Sampson, speaker at the previous meeting.

Social Secretary Mrs Writtle suggested a visit to Bicester Shopping Village.

Speaker was Mary Edwards on 'Four Seasons Gardens'. It was a truly delightful talk – a series of slides showing flowers and scenes appropriate to the various seasons, and comments and pictures backed by Vivaldi's music.

She was thanked very much for her most enjoyable contribution to our meeting.

The evening concluded as usual with the serving of tea and biscuits.

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Oktoberfest is planned at bar

A STOURBRIDGE brewery is staging a German-style Oktoberfest beer festival over three .

The event at the Green Duck Brewery's Badelynge Bar, in Rufford Road , will be running from Thursday to Satuday, October 9 to 11.

Other breweries will have beers featured at the event and these will include Rat, Blackwater, Fixed Wheel, Two Towers and Riverhead.

Music

There will be live music each day from Bethan and the Morgans.

The festival, which will feature more than 16 real ales and 10 ciders, runs from 4pm to 11pm on the Thursday, and from 1pm to 11pm on the Friday and on the Saturday.

Hippodrome put on national list of the theatres 'at risk'

At risk — Dudley Hippodrome building

A LANDMARK former theatre in Dudley has been place on the Theatres Trust's list of the nation's most 'at risk' venues.

Campaigners are working on fresh plans to rescue Dudley Hippodrome in Castle Hill which has been earmarked for demolition by the council.

The annual register features theatres which under threat of the wrecking ball and redevelopment as well as buildings that are abandoned, neglected or decaying, and those in use but at risk of closure.

It comes as The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group and events company Events that Rok have until the end of October to put forward revised proposals to re-open the building.

Bingo

Dudley Hippodrome, also a former Gala Bingo hall, is one of 33 buildings on the register.

The Trust's report says: "It was well maintained while in bingo use and the interior still has a theatrical 'feel'. Later alterations within the auditorium are fully reversible and it would be possible to return the theatre to live use."

Mhora Samuel, Director of The Theatres Trust said: "The Theatre Buildings at Risk Register really raises awareness of the plight of many of our most threatened theatres."

He added: "It makes people much more aware of the beautiful and much loved theatres that could be lost forever if action is not taken."

Scarecrows go to the movies

THE Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival is to return this weekend for its 19th year.

The event takes over the whole of the village and more than 100 scarecrows are expected to be displayed at the festival, which is on Saturday and Sunday. The theme for this year will be the movies' greatest heroes and villains.

Money raised from the festival will be shared between charities. Organisers will also be taking food collections for the Black Country Foodbank.

Sing

The weekend is said to attract some 20,000 visitors and this year they have special guests, community choir Got 2 Sing performing at Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Saturday.

The youth choir sing songs from Frozen at 12.30 and the adult choir sings at 2.30pm. See belbroughton scarecrow.co.uk for details.

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TV antiques trip expert visits shop

Celebrity auctioneer Charles Hanson, left, with Phil Sims

CAMERAS from BBC TV's Antiques Road Trip arrived at The Sims Vintage Shop in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, last week to film for an episode to be shown next year.

Phil Sims was greeted at his shop, off Stourbridge Road, by celebrity auctioneer Charles Hanson .

It comes weeks after Mr Sims made a discovery which has seen him make headlines. Five valuable pocket watches dating back to the 19th Century were found in a ginger jar more than 10 years after they went missing.

Steve Bubb had given up all hope of seeing the family heirlooms again after scouring his family home in Clent.

The 58-year-old brewery owner had handed over a large ginger jar to his friend MrSims to sell for £20 but luckily the antiques dealer found the treasured family watches wrapped up in newspaper inside the jar and let Mr Bubb know. It is thought his late mother may have hidden them in the jar but then forgot about them.

Mr Sims said: "BBC's Antiques Road Trip TV show filmed at our shop for about five hours and it will be televised in their next series."

Christian library invite for the public

A CHRISTIAN library in Stourbride is extending an invitation to new visitors.

Around 4,000 books line the shelves inside the Robin Woods Library inside the New Road Methodist Church Centre, in Stourbridge. The theological and Christian education library is based at the centre on the town's ring road.

Run by a team of volunteers, the library is open to the public and includes a quiet reading area, toilets and limited parking. There is no charge for borrowing books.

Librarian and volunteer co-ordinator Jan Scott said: "The library is a valued and important community resource for everyone exploring spirituality and faith."

It was originally set up in the mid-1990s by Frances Gibson, and is one of two libraries belonging to the Worcester Diocese. In 2002 the library moved to its present location from the Robin Woods Centre, in Scotts Road, Stourbridge.

For opening hours call (01384) 376444.

Reality TV star's son is jailed after car crash

THE son of reality television star Paddy Doherty has been jailed for 14 months for crashing a stolen BMW into an oncoming car after a high speed police chase through the Black Country.

Martin Doherty, aged 20, was accompanied by four others when he led police on the eight-mile chase through icy streets, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The pursuit ended when Doherty crossed the central reservation on the A4123 Birmingham New Road and smashed head-on into another car, leaving its driver hospitalised and both vehicles written-off.

After the hearing, former bare-knuckle boxing champion Paddy Doherty, who starred in My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding and won Celebrity Big Brother, said his son had 'got what he deserved' after Judge Martin Walsh handed him the 14-month sentence.

Jailed — Martin Doherty, 20, led police on an eight-mile car chase

Lesson — TV celebrity Paddy Doherty said his son got what he deserved

Appalling

The judge told Martin Doherty he was fortunate his 'appalling' driving did not have 'catastrophic' consequences.

Police spotted the BMW t being driven erratically on the A461 at Dudley Port on December 7, 2012.

Mr Zaheer Afzal, prosecuting, said when police started to follow the car it made off at high speed, entering Priory Road and heading into Dudley town centre before rejoining Birmingham New Road in the direction of Wolverhampton.

During the hearing the court was shown dramatic footage of the chase taken from a pursuing police car, during which Doherty was said to have committed 'numerous traffic violations'.

Mr Zaheer said: "He drove through roadworks and on the opposite side of the road towards oncoming traffic, overtaking other cars at excessive speed. Throughout the entire incident his driving was extremely erratic."

The chase ended on Birmingham New Road near the junction with Sedgley Road West when Doherty drove the BMW through a central reservation and smashed head on into a Nissan Micra driven by Ronald Gough. Mr Gough had to be cut free from the wreckage by emergency services.

He suffered multiple injuries as a result of the smash. It took him a month to make a full recovery, said Mr Afzal.

All five defendants fled the scene but were found hiding in gardens near Foxyards Primary School.

The court was told that none of the defendants were involved in the theft of the BMW, which had been stolen in October 2012 and was using false number plates.

Defending Doherty, who had been visiting friends in Dudley, Mr Adam Roxborough, said: "His father has taken him under his wing and is teaching him the building trade. "

Construction worker Doherty, of Riverside Caravan Park, Queensferry, Cheshire, admitted aggravated vehicle taking. He was jailed for 14 months and disqualified from driving for three years.

Paddy Doherty, 55, said: "What he did was wrong and he has got what he deserves.

"He could be dead. I am grateful to God for giving him back to me. He has learned his lesson and these days he is out working every day and keeping away from trouble."

The four passengers in the BMW — Daniel McDonagh, 20, of Sunnyview Road, Chester, and three 18-year-old youths — also admitted charges related to the offence and were sentenced to suspended terms in a youth offenders institution, and given orders to carry out unpaid work.

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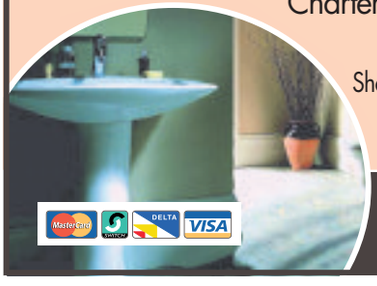

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Weddings in fashion at castle

AN HISTORIC estate is throwing open its doors as it hosts its first ever bridal fashion show on Sunday.

Hartlebury Castle, near Kidderminster, is holding the event between 11am and 3pm. The show will form part of the castle's autumn wedding fair which takes place in the former Bishop's Palace and State Rooms.

It is free to enter and gives visitors an opportunity to take a tour around the castle's Georgian Saloon, which will also play host to a demonstration wedding at 12pm, the Castle Chapel and to take a turn around the castle's wonderful carriage circle, which will be home to a selection of vintage wedding cars for the day.

The fair is raising funds for Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust. Brides will be given a free goodie bag on arrival.

More staff at hospitals in bid to tackle delays

A DOZEN new specialist health workers are to be drafted in at hospitals this winter in an attempt to reduce the number of patients left waiting in corridors with ambulance staff.

The hospital ambulance liaison staff will add to the 17 already working in the West Midlands.

Most will be based at major hospitals, including New Cross in Wolverhampton and Russells Hall in Dudley. But others will be mobile and can be called to smaller hospitals like Walsall Manor when needed.

It is part of a bid by the ambulance service to reduce delays when paramedics bring patients to hospitals. During the 2013/14 financial year, paramedics wasted more than 18,000 hours waiting for a spare beds for their patients.

By Alex Ross

Hospitals have a 30 minute target to take the patient but this lapsed on 138,900 occasions during the financial year.

Hospital ambulance liaison officers were brought in to help ease the delays over the past three years. As pressure continues to increase on the ambulance service due to increased call-outs, chief executive Anthony Marsh has come up with a plan for 12 more over the six-month winter period.

Better

Asked if the handover times for patients were a problem, Mr Marsh said: "Sometimes - it is not a problem every day, it is not a problem at every hospital, but it is a problem.

"It is better than it used to be and we continue to work hard with each hospital to minimise those delays because whilst the delays themselves are not the problem, the problem is the patients out there who are waiting for an ambulance that I can't send an ambulance to. Why? Because they are still in the corridor at a hospital.

"We work with hospitals to bring down the delays."

He said: "What we are doing is, from the additional winter funding given, we are looking to increase hospital ambulance liaison staff cover at main hospitals."

In March this year Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group fined The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, £74,750 for 334 ambulance handover delays. The money was re-invested into improving emergency care with the aim of reducing handover delays. The hospital trust said it is working with the ambulance service to tackle the problem.

Career highlight with no strings attached

Richard Morse, left, with Jessica Parker and fellow Avenue Q actor Stephen Arden and puppet pals

CHEEKY puppets in an American show that some have described as an adults' only version of The Muppets actually had Black Country talent pulling the strings.

When brash Tony award-winning Broadway and West End comedy Avenue Q came the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham last week on stage were two actor/puppeteers from Dudley.

College

Stourbridge-born Richard Morse, who appears as Brian, is a former Thorns Community College pupil who went on to study at King Edwards College before learning his craft at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

He was delighted to be back in the West Midlands, adding: "I get a chance not only to perform the show on home turf but in front of all of my friends and family in a packed theatre."

Performing alongside Richard was Kingswinford-born Jessica Parker, 31.

She said: "I'm so thrilled. It's ticked off the last stage that I really wanted to perform on since I was little."

Competitive anglers have reeled in £1,200 for Guide Dogs

ANGLERS have netted more than £1,200 after casting out to raise money for guide dogs.

Fundraisers brought in cash for Guide Dogs for the Blind at a contest held at KC Fisheries in Hartlebury. The event, also involving a raffle and donations, was organised by Marie Court of Halesowen, and John Butler from HSBC bank.

Marie has set a target of raising £5,000 over the coming months and will be organising other events with the support of her family. Her nephew Jordan Edgar has raised more than £100 at his school.

Support

Mrs Court said: "I am completely overwhelmed by the support we received and would especially like to thank Rob and Keith of KC Fisheries for donating their ponds and helping run the competition we just simply couldn't have done it without their help and generosity, and HSBC for their generous donation.

Donations have been counted up following the event on July 5. Guide Dogs Community Fundraiser, Miles Northwood, added: "The help they get from people like Rob and Keith of KC fisheries is invaluable."

Home team help charity

STAFF and residents at a Dudley borough children's home have raised hundreds of pounds for charity by taking part in a mini-triathlon.

Twelve members of staff from Maitland Road Children's Home were joined by three residents and one former resident at the event earlier this month. They took part in a three mile bike ride and a 1.5mile run at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge before heading to Dudley Leisure Centre to complete the challenge with a 0.5 mile swim.

They managed to raise more than £750 for White House Cancer Support in Dudley.

Burglars bested

BURGLARS struck at a pub in Lye but left empty handed after they were unable to break open the till.

Police were called at around 7am on Thursday after raiders forced their way into the Holly Bush pub on Cemetery Road by breaking a window.

Tenants' new role on board

A NEW board consisting of council tenants, residents and council members will replace area housing panels in Dudley borough after an independent review of tenant and resident involvement.

The structure was agreed by Dudley Council and the Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association last week.

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader, said: "As a community council we are committed to engaging with local people and we know that this is what tenant and residents want. I am sure that by working together we will make sure that we provide the best possible housing service to the people of Dudley borough."

The new board will have the responsibility for allocating the Community Safety and Environment budgets as well as ensuring the council provides affordable homes and services.

The current interim housing board will remain in place until March 31 2015 when the new board will then be finalised.

Garden project in grant snag

CAMPAIGNERS have suffered a blow in their bid to buy an 18th century walled garden after councillors deferred plans to give a £5,000 grant.

Members of Halesowen Abbey Trust want to buy the Grade I listed garden at The Leasowes park, in Halesowen, to open it to the public. It has been shut since closing as a centre for horticultural students after the then-Stourbridge College left the site 18 months ago.

Campaigners struck a deal with new owners Birmingham Metropolitan College in a bid to safeguard the future of the garden. But the trust had hoped to secure £5,000 from councillors on the Belle Vale and Hayley Green community forum towards their costs. Councillors deferred a decision, saying they needed more information.

Trust leader Mick Freer vowed to ensure the deal was sealed by its mid-October deadline.

He added: "We will buy it one way or another. It is a blip, but that's life."

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The dancing grannies made Bill's birthday extra special

THEY'RE the dancing grannies who became a YouTube hit but they have made one man their 'own age' very happy after performing for his birthday.

Bill Poole's family arranged for The Fizzogs to perform at Westley Court Care Home, in Cookley, for his 87th birthday and the group became a hit with the residents.

The 'grannies' performed for around 20 of Mr Poole's family and 30 residents in a surprise present for him.

Mr Poole, who lived in Stourbridge before moving to the home, said he loved the performance .

His daughter, Valerie, said: "We first saw The Fizzogs last year and then watched them on YouTube and my dad loved them.

"He's a real Black Country boy and loves his Black Country humour so we thought it would be fantastic if they performed for him. He loves a good laugh and a sing song and that's why he loves The Fizzogs."

"It was absolutely brilliant, all the residents were in tears of laughter.

Former welder Mr Poole, who has been at the care home since June, was born in Wordsley but lived most of his life in Wollescote.

Mrs Smith added: "They really enjoyed performing for the residents and were quite touched by it, so they have agreed to come back and do it again for Christmas."

The Fizzogs perform for Bill Poole celebrating his 87th birthday at Westley Court Care Home,Cookley

Severn Trent make promise to improve

COMPLAINTS made to Severn Trent have risen by five per cent, the second highest increase of all water firms in the country, a report has revealed.

Figures show that the company received 18,813 written complaints in 2013/14, up from 17,858 a year earlier.

However, the numbers have reduced greatly in the past four years, down 22 per cent.

In total 123,218 written complaints received by all water companies between April 1 2013 and March 31 this year is the equivalent of more than 300 every day. More than half were about billing and charges matters.

A Severn Trent Water spokeswoman said: "We're committed to the highest standards of customer service and so any rise in the number of complaints is disappointing. Overall the number of complaints has fallen by more than 20 per cent over the last three years and we've put a number of measures in place to improve the way we help our customers."

£495k is price tag for village police HQ

A VILLAGE police station which was axed as part of cost cutting by a Midlands force has been put on the market for a six figure sum.

Hagley Police Station shut in April after cash-strapped West Mercia Police battled to make multi-million savings to squeezed budgets. Officers now have to share a 'community policing post' with Rubery set up at the home of Hagley Parish Council.

By Andrew Turton

The former police station, in Kidderminster Road, has been put up for sale for £495,000 with Edgbaston based estate agents Harris Lamb.

Plans were first announced by the force last year after it emerged the organisation needed to make cuts of £20 million by 2015.

Resources

Other services have also been scaled back including opening hours at front counters at Kidderminster with the counter shut completely in Stourport station.

Police bosses say West Mercia Police estate has been reviewed to release money to pay for the workforce and front line policing and other resources.

West Mercia Police acknowledged Hagley Police Station was up for sale but did not comment further.

But Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore previously said: "Ultimately the fewer buildings we have and the more we reduce our estate the more resources we will have to protect communities.

"This new approach will deliver significant savings both now and in the future.

"Despite all these changes the public will see an increased presence on their streets and channels through which they will be able to meet and speak with a member of our workforce will be broadened."

Hagley Residents Action group spokesman Peter Rowbottom urged police chiefs to spend money from the sale on policing in the village.

"Hagley Residents Action Group feel that it would be appropriate if all or most of the potential money from the sale of Hagley Police Station was reinvested in policing in Hagley and the surrounding smaller villages," he said.

"It could also potentially be spent on a police community post as part of a proposed new Hagley Community Hub.

"Extra police officers and resources will certainly be needed in the Hagley area in future as its population is set to increase by almost 20 per cent in the next two years due to the building of over 350 new homes.

"There should be some way of ensuring that additional police resources will be provided.

NEET figures are falling across region

THE number of young people not in education, employment or training in the Black Country has fallen during the last year, it has emerged.

The latest figures show 5.4 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds across the region were not studying or working in May this year, compared to 7.5 per cent at the same point in 2013.

In a report compiled by the Government's Client Caseload Information System, the Black Country is shown to be bucking the national trend for the age group.

The figure for the UK is now 5.4 per cent – around 800,000 – which represents a slight increase on last year. Across the four Black Country authorities a total of 2,210 people aged 16 to 24 were not in education, employment or training known as NEET as of May this year.

Council chiefs in the region said they were pleased the figures had dropped and said it was the result of hard work.

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It's no longer a labour of love as brothers row over UB40 name

Review

Ian Pittaway & Billie Spakemon
Newhampton Folk Club

THE autumn season of the Newhampton Folk Club kicked off with two very different acts sharing the bill upstairs in the Newhampton Inn, Whitmore Reans.

Billie Spakemon, a storyteller and singer from Oldbury, is passionate about the Black Country dialect — so much so he has a PhD in it and speaks at international conferences.

When you get someone such as Spakemon who is proud of the local tongue, it takes on a new life and a kind of magic happens where you reconnect to terms such 'jed', meaning dead, and 'fittle' , food. His stories and songs covered murder, wife selling, love, courtship and parenthood.

In contrast was Ian Pittaway who specialises in mediaeval and renaissance music which he plays on two beautifully crafted lutes. The music he expertly plays are as authentic as you can get without a time machine to take you back to the 16th century.

His gentle and precise skill on the instruments — he plays guitar too — is impressive to watch. The sound he produces is the sort of music which the likes of Shakespeare would have listened to.

Both performances were unplugged which meant they were fighting against the sound of the Oxjam festival going on downstairs in the pub, and while it didn't spoil the show, the loud music was intrusive.

Danny Farragher

You'll want more of this show

ONE of the best loved musicals is returning to Wolverhampton next month. Lionel Bart's Oliver! is based on the classic novel by Charles Dickens about the adventures of orphan Oliver Twist in 19th century London.

Oliver! is staged at the Grand Theatre from October 14 to 18 in a production by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company. It features such memorable songs as Food Glorious Food, Consider Yourself, As Long As He Needs Me and I'd Do Anything.

Mike Thomas, of Albrighton, will play Fagin while James Collins, a teacher at Smestow School, plays nasty Bill Sykes. Office worker Lexie Bennett, of Upper Gornal, makes her company debut as Nancy. The title role will be shared by James Shaw, aged nine, from Brewood, and 12-year-old Ben Sidaway, of Stourport. Call the box office on 01902 429212.

Lexie Bennett as Nancy and James Collins as Bill Sykes with his dog Bullseye

ALI Campbell and brother Duncan are the Cain and Abel of reggae.

Both front bands called UB40. Confused? You should be. So's Ali — and he helped create the band and sang with them for more than 30 years, selling 70 million records including hits like Kingston Town and Red, Red Wine, among many others.

Trouble is, there are now two bands using the name UB40. There's Ali, Mickey and Astro, then there's the rest of the guys.

Following a sold out gig at Birmingham O2 Academy on December 19, Ali's UB40 will line up at Birmingham's NIA on April 17 next year – though they might have changed their name by then.

He said: "The thing is, there's a lot of confusion and we want to clear it up.

Ali Campbell — on the road

Legendary

"When me, Astro and Mikey go out, I make sure the fans know they are coming to see me. We call the show The Legendary Voice of UB40, or Ali Campbell's UB40.

"The other guys are accusing me of 'passing off', which means I'm pretending to be UB40. But I'm the one who started the band. I think it's hilarious."

The matter is heading to court and Ali's been served with a writ, urging him to cease and desist from using the name UB40.

"I was forced into leaving because of all sorts of issues. I'd had enough. The next thing I know my brother, Duncan, has joined the band. It's proper Cain and Abel stuff. I haven't spoken to any of them. It stresses me out."

There are, of course, two sides to every story and 'the other' UB40 have pinned the blame on Ali.

Meanwhile Ali's doing what he does best, he's taking to the road to sing.

"This year, we're off to Australia, New Zealand, Africa, India and the USA. We don't want anything to stop us," he said.

Andy Richardson

Wouldn't it be good to see Nik?

PRIME gigs this week include 1980s hit-maker Nik Kershaw at Bilston's Robin 2 tonight and American singer-songwriter James Taylor at the LG Arena tomorrow.

Steve Craddock of Birmingham's Ocean Colour Scene is at Wolverhampton venue The Slade Rooms on Saturday, same night as The Busbys' charity bash at Robin 2. Mancunians 1975 have sold out their Wolverhampton Civic gig on Monday, the same night The Horrors play The Institute in Digbeth.

The highly-rated Nell Bryden, last seen in Wolverhampton supporting Gary Barlow, is at the Robin 2 on Wednesday, the same night The Sunshine Underground play the Slade Rooms.

Comedy nights at city venues

IT is comedy all the way in Wolverhampton over the next week. Dave Gorman brings his Work In Progress to the Slade Rooms for two nights, on Monday and Tuesday, then one of Ireland's favourite comics, Tommy Tiernan, on Thursday, October 2.

Also coming up at the same venue are radical comic Andy Zaltzman on Saturday, October 4, and Edinburgh Festival success Peter Johansson on October 9.

Meanwhile, Michael Palin will be talking about Python and his globe-trotting adventures in Travelling To Work at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday.

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CHOICE

Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.30pm)
The Time Lord's companions have always lived double lives – one involving their friends and family, usually on Earth, with the other focusing on travelling through time and space saving the universe with their alien best buddy. Clara thinks this arrangement suits her just fine – after all, what could be better than gallivanting with the Gallifreyan one minute, and then settling down to watch telly with her new boyfriend the next? But when terrifying events threaten Coal Hill, the last thing she needs is for the school to welcome a relief caretaker with a Scottish accent – especially as it means he may finally come face to face with Danny. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi, Jenna Coleman and Samuel Anderson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Sailing: World Championship Highlights. **2.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. The women's road race. **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** BBC News; Regional News.

6.05 Pointless Celebrities. With famous faces from the world of theatre – Simon Callow, Imogen Stubbs, Lysette Anthony, Christopher Timothy, Gwen Taylor, Keith Barron, Claire Sweeney and Simon Shepherd.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Following last night's first live edition, in which the first six celebrity hoofers made their dance-floor debuts – not counting the group number they all exuberantly threw themselves into in the launch show earlier this month – Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman introduce the nine celebrities who have been patiently waiting in the wings, ready to show off what they've learned in the rehearsal room – or not, in the case of any potential John Sergeants and Mo Mowlams. With no public vote or elimination this weekend, the scores given by judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are carried over to next week, when the first couple will leave the competition. To paraphrase Tess and Claudia – it's time to "geeeeeeeet dancing!".

8.30 Doctor Who. The Time Lord goes undercover as a caretaker at Coal Hill School when a new threat emerges – and before long, he comes face to face with Clara's boyfriend Danny Pink.

9.15 Casualty. A wedding ends in disaster when the floor collapses, Max tries to win over a teenage girl suffering abdominal pains, and Lofty suspects a patient is a victim of domestic abuse.

10.05 The National Lottery Live. The numbers are revealed for the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball draws.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day; National Lottery Update.

12.05 The Football League Show. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Magnificent Doll. (1946) **7.45 Film:** The Island at the Top of the World. (1974) **9.15** The Trials of Life. (R) **10.10** The Trials of Life. (R) **11.00** Map Man. (R) **11.30** South Africa Walks. (R) **12.00** Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) **12.50 Film:** Swing Time. (1936) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **2.30 Film:** Strictly Ballroom. (1992) Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio. **4.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.00** The £100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R)

6.00 Restoring England's Heritage.

6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don meets world-renowned garden designer Piet Oudolf at his latest creation in Somerset, where he explains how viewers can adapt the Dutchman's style for their own gardens. (R)

7.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms.

7.30 Hilary Mantel: Case Histories. The author chats to James Runcie about the final part of her Thomas Cromwell trilogy and The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher, her new collection of short stories.

8.00 Dad's Army. Corporal Jones misplaces £500 donated by local shopkeepers to provide a new canteen for servicemen, so the platoon tries to help him remember where he put it. (R)

8.30 Golf: The Ryder Cup. Hazel Irvine and Dan Walker present highlights of day two from the Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire, where the 40th staging of the biennial contest between teams from the USA and Europe continued with more fourballs and foursomes matches. With commentary and analysis by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond, Rishi Persad and Russell Fuller.

10.30 Film: Margin Call. (2011) Premiere. An executive dismissed from an investment bank leaks news of an impending crisis, which soon spreads throughout the company. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Paul Bettany.

12.10 TOTP2. (R) **1.10 Film:** X the Unknown. (1956) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** The Mirror Crack'd. (1980) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **2.35 Film:** Field of Dreams. (1989) Baseball fantasy, with Kevin Costner and Ray Liotta. **4.30** The X Factor. (R) **5.35** Off Their Rockers. (R)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! New series. Harry Hill narrates the comical clips show, featuring trouble in church, a grandmother taking on a fire engine, a dog stealing a smartphone and a breakfast surprise.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson (Alicia Metcalfe), actress Patsy Kensit, broadcaster Esther Rantzen and singer-presenter Brian McFadden compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser.

8.00 The X Factor. The six-chair challenge continues in the second of three boot-camp shows, as the hopefuls battle it out for the chance to win a record deal. The stakes are high as the acts perform individually to win a seat – each one representing a place at the judges' houses stage of the competition, but nobody is safe until the last person in each category has sung.

9.20 Through the Keyhole. Craig Charles, Fearne Cotton and Dave Berry make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon tours mystery properties and challenges them to guess the identities of the famous homeowners.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Shaun of the Dead. (2004) Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Gadget Man. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races at Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Hairdresser Francesca Saynor hosts the final dinner party in Wakefield and hopes that her simple menu and back-to-school theme will impress her guests. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. In Bow Brickhill near Milton Keynes, a couple want to add more space to their tiny cottage, while in Cardiff, plans are made for a huge wraparound extension to a three-bed house. (R)

8.10 Grand Designs. Architect Patrick Bradley has come up with an unusual £100,000 house design built out of four 45ft shipping containers, welded together to form a giant cross and cantilevered over the top of a stream on the family farm in Co Derry. His mother is hoping the new home will help her son find a girlfriend, but the small budget and tight schedule soon pose problems. Kevin McCloud follows his progress. (R)

9.15 Film: End of Watch. (2012) Premiere. Two Los Angeles cops make their regular patrol of the city, dealing with petty offences while one records their lives on camera for a documentary project. The officers end up in over their heads when they stumble on evidence that could bring down a drug cartel, putting them squarely in the gang's firing line. Crime thriller, with Jake Gyllenhaal.

11.25 Rude Tube. Alex Zane presents a countdown of 50 viral clips of merry mishaps, including a parallel parking fail marathon and the infamous Wealdstone Raider. (R)

12.25 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **1.20 Film:** Hot Rod. (2007) **2.50** Homeland. (R) **3.40** Hollyoaks. **5.50** NFL: Rush Zone.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.10** Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. (R) **11.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **1.10** Storage: Flog the Lot! (R) **2.15 Film:** Cromwell. (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. **5.00 Film:** The Long Ships. (1963) Viking adventure, starring Richard Widmark and Sidney Poitier.

7.30 5 News Weekend.

7.35 World War II in Colour. By the end of June 1940, German forces controlled Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France, with Britain defiant but bloodied after the retreat from Dunkirk and in no state to take on the all-conquering Nazi war machine. However, Britain still had a powerful navy and some of the finest fighter planes ever built and had also made two powerful technological breakthroughs – radar and the cracking of the German Enigma codes – that would give it a vital edge in the Battle of Britain. Prime minister Winston Churchill then began the fightback, with commando raids and help for the resistance in occupied Europe. (R)

8.30 Film: The Patriot. (2000) A retired soldier takes up arms once more to avenge the unprovoked murder of his son at the hands of the British during the American War of Independence – and finds himself up against a sadistic officer wreaking havoc in the surrounding area. Roland Emmerich's action adventure, starring Mel Gibson, Jason Isaacs, Heath Ledger and Joely Richardson.

11.35 Lost Heroes of World War One. The course of the conflict through archived interviews with those who lived through it. As war is declared, a patriotic fervour sweeps through the nation. Narrated by Dougray Scott. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Age Gap Love: He's 70, She's 37. Conclusion of the two-part documentary featuring people in relationships with much younger partners, including a woman who fell in love with her father's friend. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Great TV Mistakes **8.30** Top Gear **9.30** Bad Education **10.00** Comedy Fest Live 2014 **11.00** Family Guy **1.35** Bad Education **2.05** Siblings **3.35** Vodka Diaries **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Yellowstone **8.00** Hidden Killers: The Edwardian Home **9.00** Crimes of Passion **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1979 **11.10** Young Guns Go for It **12.10** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **1.10** Yellowstone **2.10** Young Guns Go for It **2.50** Hidden Killers: The Edwardian Home **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.35 The X Factor **12.35** The Xtra Factor **1.05** You've Been Framed! **2.05** You've Been Framed! Kids Special **3.10** You've Been Framed! **3.35 Film:** Valiant (2005) **5.15 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.20** The Xtra Factor **9.50** The Job Lot **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Release the Hounds **12.00** The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **1.50** Two and a Half Men **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.30 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **2.35** A Touch of Frost **4.45** Wycliffe **5.50** Inspector Morse **7.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **1.10** Judge Judy **1.50** Movies Now **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.10 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **2.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.25** The Motorbike Show **4.25** Goodwood Revival 2014 **5.25** Storage Wars **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **11.35 Film:** Scarface (1983) **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 How I Met Your Mother **12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.35** Rude(ish) Tube **3.35** 2 Broke Girls **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The 100 **7.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** How I Met Your Mother **12.50** The Mindy Project **1.20** Almost Royal **1.50** The Ricky Gervais Show **2.50** The Cleveland Show **3.35** Glee **4.15** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 The Valley of Gwangi (1969) **1.00** Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989) **3.05** Sister Act (1992) **5.05** Fast Girls (2012) **6.50** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05** Man on Fire (2004) **1.55** Raging Balls of Steel Justice **2.10** Circle of Eight (2009) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Lacey Turner

Our Girl (BBC1, 9pm)
Molly seems to be settling into life in Afghanistan with surprising ease, as she even strikes up a rapport with a little girl named Bashira. However, not everyone is convinced their bond is a good thing, as Captain James advises the medic against becoming too involved with the locals. His words cause Molly to question Bashira's motives for befriending her, but when the youngster lets slip some vital information about the insurgency, the entire platoon has no choice but to embark on a potentially explosive mission. It looks as if Captain James's warning could come back to haunt Molly as she realises she's placed her own life and that of Bashira in danger. Lacey Turner, Ben Aldridge and Iwan Rheon star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. Analysis of yesterday's Premier League matches. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.10** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. For the second year running, Countryfile plays host to One Man and His Dog, the contest showcasing the skills and traditions of sheepdog training and handling. Matt Baker and Helen Skelton present the action from Byland Abbey in the North York Moors, as handlers representing England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales compete to become the 2014 champions. Between rounds, Helen explores the hills around the abbey, whose monks used to be at the heart of Britain's wool trade, and discovers how nearby Ampleforth Abbey is still going strong. But rather than raising sheep, its monks are now selling cider. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. A return visit to Kirby Hall in Northamptonshire, where items include Art Deco enamel, a toy football team, a stuffed dog, a Venetian drug jar and an elaborate carved chair.

9.00 Our Girl. Molly strikes up a friendship with a young Afghan girl, in spite of Capt James' warnings against becoming too involved with the locals, threatening her ability to remain impartial.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the Premier League match at the Hawthorns, where West Bromwich Albion welcomed Burnley.

11.20 Film: Flightplan. (2005) A woman on board a flight with her daughter wakes up to find the girl has disappeared – but no one else remembers having seen her. Thriller, with Jodie Foster and Peter Sarsgaard.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) **7.00** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.20** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) **1.20** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. The men's road race. **4.00** Canoe Slalom: World Championship Highlights. **5.30** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs.

6.30 Jungle Atlantis. A thousand years ago, the Khmer people of Cambodia built an empire and their capital was the great city of Angkor, with its centrepiece being Angkor Wat – a vast temple complex covering an area more than four times the size of the Vatican City. In the first of this two-part programme, an international team of archaeologists and scientists use revolutionary technology to reveal the true scale and extent of the lost metropolis and find out how its people lived and died. (R)

7.30 Golf: The Ryder Cup. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the third day from the Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire, where the 40th staging of the biennial contest between teams from the USA and Europe concluded with the singles matches. With commentary and analysis by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond, Rishi Persad and Russell Fuller.

9.30 Mock the Week. Rob Beckett, Milton Jones, Romesh Ranganathan and Holly Walsh join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. Dara O Briain hosts. (R)

10.00 Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll. (2009) Premiere. Biopic of punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.

11.55 Film: The Children. (2008) A family Christmas at a remote cottage turns deadly when a virus transforms the children into bloodthirsty killers. Horror, starring Eva Birthistle and Stephen Campbell Moore.

1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.20** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35 Film:** Carry On Girls. (1973) **1.15 Film:** Fletch Lives. (1989) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase. **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **4.15** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.45** All Star Family Fortunes. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jack Whitehall hosts the variety show, with Lionel Richie, the Script, dance act Duplic8, comedy duo the Umbilical Brothers and a preview of the new Made in Dagenham musical.

8.00 The X Factor. As the boot-camp triple bill concludes, the 24 remaining acts know they have to raise their game to stand out at the forthcoming judges' houses stage of the competition.

9.00 Downton Abbey. A bombshell was dropped in last week's edition, and it's clear as this episode begins that the household, both upstairs and down, is still coming to terms with what has happened – and it falls on Robert's broad shoulders to make what could be a far-reaching decision about the situation. Rose, meanwhile, seems more concerned with persuading him to buy a wireless than what is happening to those around her – but then again, she's always been trapped in her own self-centred little world. In the kitchen, Mrs Patmore thinks she may have found a way to help Daisy cope with her studies, while Thomas' devious ways look set to scupper Baxter's friendship with Molesley.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 I Married the Waiter: Love in the Sun. Stories of British women whose holiday romances endured long after they returned home to the UK. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.10 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **4.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 British F3. (R) **6.40** British F3. **7.05** Ironman Wales. **7.35** NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.55 Film:** She's the Man. (2006) Romantic comedy, starring Amanda Bynes and Channing Tatum. **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** American Football Live at Wembley. Oakland Raiders v Miami Dolphins (Kick-off 6.00pm).

8.00 Operation Maneater. Mark Evans travels to the shores of Hudson Bay in Canada, where polar bears are causing havoc in isolated communities. He arrives in the town of Churchill just hours after an attack has left two people seriously injured and one of the animals dead. Here, he joins an alert team transporting a captured bear by helicopter to a designated release site. Next, in the Inuit town of Arviat, he works with wildlife officers to test an aerial drone early warning system, a military-grade loud speaker deterrent and a controversial experiment to place meat out on the tundra to divert these predators away from locals.

9.00 Film: Magic Mike. (2012) Premiere. A male stripper who is the star attraction in a nightclub teaches a talented young dancer the tricks of the trade, while also introducing him to his hedonistic world. The veteran performer falls for his protege's sister, but finds his wild lifestyle comes between them. Steven Soderbergh's comedy drama, with Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey, Olivia Munn and Alex Pettyfer.

11.15 Film: Indecent Proposal. (1993) A penniless couple accept $1million for the wife to sleep with a billionaire, but their marriage suffers as a result. Drama, starring Robert Redford, Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson.

1.20 American Football Live. Dallas Cowboys v New Orleans Saints (Kick-off 1.30am). Nat Coombs is joined by Mike Carlson to present coverage of the match from AT&T Stadium. **5.00** Ironman Wales. Highlights of the race in Pembrokeshire. (R) **5.25** Win It Cook It. Hosted by Simon Rimmer. (R) **5.55** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Access. **10.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader. **3.30 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco. (1996) Animal adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. **5.10 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop. (2009) Comedy, starring Kevin James.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: 10,000 BC. (2008) In prehistoric times, a young mammoth-hunter bravely combats ferocious creatures as he journeys across the wilderness to rescue his captive lover and her fellow villagers from brutal slave raiders. Roland Emmerich's fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait, Camilla Belle, Cliff Curtis and Joel Virgel.

9.00 Film: Gone in 60 Seconds. (2000) A veteran car thief is forced out of retirement to steal 50 top-of-the-range vehicles in exchange for his brother's life. While his sibling is held hostage by a sadistic gangster, he asks his former cronies to help – but with the clock ticking and just a few days remaining to pull off the daunting task, their chances of success are hanging by a thread. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie and Robert Duvall. Part of the Legend of Cage night.

11.15 Film: Bangkok Dangerous. (2008) A hitman in Thailand questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed when his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage and Shahkrit Yamnarm. Part of the Legend of Cage night.

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.05** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.50** Doctor Who **8.35 Film:** Kung Fu Panda (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** American Dad! **12.00 Film:** Anuvahood (2011) **1.25** The Truth About Skunk **2.25** Bad Education **2.55** Parents' Evening **3.20** Bad Education **3.50** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge **8.00** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **10.00 Film:** The Body (2012) **11.45** Queen: The Legendary 1975 Concert **12.30 Film:** Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (1973) **2.00** TOTP2 **2.45** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **3.45** Close

ITV2
12.25 The X Factor **1.40** The Xtra Factor **2.15** You've Been Framed! **2.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.55 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.50 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Bad Bridesmaid **11.00** Tricked **12.00** The X Factor **1.05** The Xtra Factor **2.00** Two and a Half Men **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.50 Inspector Morse **1.55** Wycliffe **3.00 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **5.05 Film:** Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes (2000) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00 Film:** Gosford Park (2001) **12.50** William and Mary **2.40** Judge Judy **3.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. The ninth round of the season from Silverstone. **6.30** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.30** Storage Wars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** The Game (1997) **11.40** Hell on Wheels **12.35** River Monsters **1.35** Breakout **2.35** Motorway Patrol **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 How I Met Your Mother **2.00** Melissa & Joey **3.00** Suburgatory **3.30** New Girl **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The 100 **6.00** 2 Broke Girls **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Karate Kid (2010) **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **11.10** Glue **12.15** Rules of Engagement **1.15** Rude Tube: All Things Weird and Wonderful **2.20** The Ricky Gervais Show **2.45** The Cleveland Show **3.10** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Blossoms in the Dust (1941) **1.00** Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (1991) **3.05** Mad Money (2008) **5.10** Romancing the Stone (1984) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.20** Neds (2010) **1.40** Cop Land (1997) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Terminator, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A cyborg assassin is sent on a murderous mission back in time to the 20th century, where he wreaks havoc while searching for his intended victim – a woman whose unborn son is destined to lead the human race in a war against machines. However, a soldier has also been sent from the future to protect her. James Cameron's sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton and Michael Biehn. (1984)

TUESDAY
Honeymoon in Vegas, BBC1, 11.35pm
A private detective faces a desperate race against time to win back his fiancee after using her as a betting stake in a card game, which he lost to an expert player. Andrew Bergman's romantic comedy, starring Nicolas Cage, Sarah Jessica Parker, James Caan, Johnny Williams, Anne Bancroft and Peter Boyle. (1992)

The Nutty Professor, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

WEDNESDAY
They Come Back, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A psychologist takes on the case of an orphaned girl whose parents were killed in a car crash. As she treats the withdrawn child, she begins to suspect her patient is not merely traumatised by her loss, but is being haunted by the ghosts of her parents. Supernatural drama, starring Mia Kirshner and Niamh Wilson. (2007)

THURSDAY
Love Will Keep Us Together, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A man is left devastated after the death of his wife and puts his career on hold so he can devote himself to looking after their children. The youngsters have never had a particularly close bond with him, but through the hardships that come and go they grow closer together as a family. Drama, with David James Elliott and Sharon Case. (2010)

FRIDAY
The Nutty Professor, ITV, 11.10pm
An obese, terminally shy professor invents a potion that transforms him into a slim, loud-mouthed charmer. His new streamlined self immediately sets out to woo the woman of his dreams – but soon starts to ride roughshod over everything he used to care about. Remake of the 1963 Jerry Lewis comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, Jada Pinkett Smith and Larry Miller. (1996)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Thomas returns to expand his empire

Razor blades hidden in caps, danger around every corner and dastardly goings-on in Birmingham – that's the stuff this hit drama is made of.

Peaky Blinders arrived in a blaze of publicity last year, and with good reason – it's not every day that Hollywood stars of the calibre of Cillian Murphy and Sam Neill agree to appear on BBC Two. Not that this is a cheaply made affair – far from it in fact.

As well as a great script from Steven Knight, writer of the screenplays for Eastern Promises and Dirty Pretty Things, and wonderful performances, the production design also helps transform the tale into something very special indeed – heaps of trouble has gone into recreating post-First World War Midlands, and it often feels like a very foreboding world indeed.

The first series was a big success, so it came as no surprise when a second was commissioned.

Knight was particularly thrilled, because the idea for the series came from shadowy tales he heard from elderly members of his family.

"I am so pleased we will be able to continue to tell this story of a working class family living through extraordinary times in an extraordinary way. The Peaky Blinders will march on to many surprising places and fight astonishing battles as the 1920s begin to roar."

Another big star is set to make an appearance in series two – Tom Hardy.

Last year he starred in Locke, an inventive film written and directed by Knight set entirely inside a car. He's also well-known to Murphy – the pair appeared in The Dark Knight Rises, the final film in director Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy. Now they're back on screen again, pitting their wits against each other.

Murphy was chillingly believable in the first run as Thomas Shelby, head of a criminal family, while Hardy joins the cast as Thomas's arch enemy from way back.

The action now takes place in the Roaring Twenties, with Thomas determined to develop the Shelby businesses, both legally and illegally, in new territories. But when we meet up with him again, a blast from the past is all set to put a spanner in the works…

"It's classic crime family stuff," says the Irish actor. "But whatever the shift in power or that push and pull is, the family is unbelievably tight."

They also look startlingly similar thanks to their severe short-back-and-sides haircut – we're talking about the men only, of course - which makes them appear threatening in real life.

"The look thing was very important," explains Murphy. "There was a real peaky blinders gang that existed, and they were far more vicious and brutal than the gang that we are depicting. However, it was necessary that they controlled this part of Birmingham, so they instil a fear and respect in people, so we need to look tough. So for a load of fey actors, it was important to get the look right."

They certainly do look right – and should add to the menace this time around too.

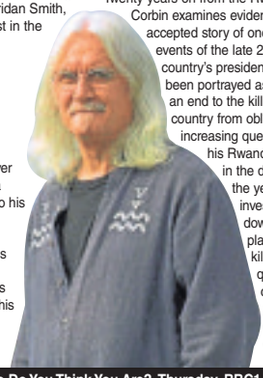
Cillian Murphy heads the cast of Peaky Blinders, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
New Tricks
BBC1, 9pm
The arrest of a Turkish girl who has been working illegally leads Ucos to reopen the case of Richard Gibson, a pub landlord who died in a fire in 2009. The original investigation concluded Gibson's death was probably suicide due to his dire financial situation, but the detectives have some questions about the pub's live-in barmaid, who disappeared on the night of the blaze. Could widowed landlady Joanna, pub regular Jason, or the dead man's best friend David, who happens to have a sideline in passing off his British-produced sparkling wine as French champagne, supply them with any answers? While the case tests the team's brain power, Sasha is also keen to raise their fitness levels as she signs them up for a five-a-side football competition. Phil Davis, Niamh Cusack and Tom Georgeson guest star.

Cilla
ITV, 9pm
It looks like Cilla has put that early botched audition and those disappointing record sales behind her as, following the success of Anyone Who Had a Heart, her new single You're My World becomes her second number one. However, while she may have conquered the UK charts, can she follow in the footsteps of her old mates the Beatles and crack America? The signs aren't looking good, and just to add to the pressure, her relationship with Bobby is becoming increasingly tumultuous. But as her manager Brian Epstein's private life starts to spiral out of control, it seems there could be an even bigger threat to Cilla's new-found success. The concluding instalment of Jeff Pope's biopic charting Cilla Black's rise to fame, starring Sheridan Smith, Aneurin Barnard and Ed Stoppard. Last in the series.

TUESDAY
The Driver
BBC1, 9pm
The crime drama continues, as Vince realises just how far out of his depth he has gotten since agreeing to be the driver for gang leader The Horse. He nurses a guilty conscience as his thoughts turn to his involvement in the last job and so sets about trying to make things right – although little does he realise his actions are going to impact on Col. Meanwhile, Ros is becoming increasingly suspicious of what her husband is getting up to in his spare time, and it looks like Vince's two worlds may be about to collide. Feeling at a loss, he tries to piece his family back together by visiting his son Tim and making an emotional plea. David Morrissey, Claudie Blakley, Ian Hart and Lewis Rainer star.


Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
This World: Rwanda's Untold Story
BBC2, 9pm
Twenty years on from the Rwandan genocide, Jane Corbin examines evidence that challenges the accepted story of one of the most horrifying events of the late 20th century. The country's president Paul Kagame has long been portrayed as the man who brought an end to the killing and rescued his country from oblivion, but there are increasing questions about the role of his Rwandan Patriotic Front forces in the dark days of 1994 and in the years since. The film investigates the shooting down of the presidential plane that sparked the killings in 1994, questions Kagame's claims to have ended the genocide and examines allegations of war crimes committed by his forces and their allies.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Some great names have featured in the series so far, but their ancestors' lives haven't always been as intriguing as those of lesser celebrities who've taken part in previous runs. At least with this week's famous face – comedian and actor Billy Connolly – we're guaranteed more than our fair share of laughs, even if his family history turns out to be lacklustre. The episode starts out promisingly in the city of Billy's birth, Glasgow, where he hopes to find out more about his mother's relatives. He believes they hailed from Ireland, but records concerning his great-great-grandmother only deepen the mystery.

FRIDAY
Tom Kerridge's: Best Ever Dishes
BBC2, 9pm
New series. The double Michelin-starred chef creates new versions of some of Britain's favourite recipes, elevating everyday, ordinary food with his impressive flair. In the first episode, Tom focuses on crowd-pleasing dishes, perfect for sharing at a party, including crispy stuffed potato skins with Roquefort and pancetta, pulled beef brisket with garlic coleslaw, and barbecued mackerel. He finishes off with an indulgent chocolate tart.

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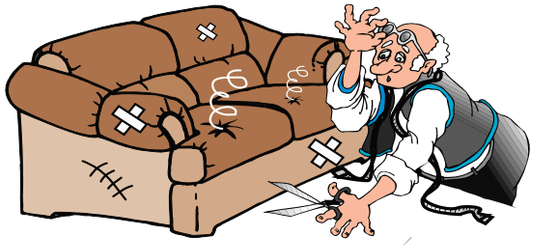

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A THREE-BEDROOMED end terrace house in Blower Green Crescent, Dudley, is an ideal family home that has been well maintained.

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Refurbished semi has a price tag of £135,000

A RECENTLY refurbished three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Wolseley Road, West Bromwich comes with a garden and outbuilding.

It is for sale through Worton Kelly at £135,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a hall, lounge with new carpet and blinds, kitchen with ceiling spotlights and patio doors out to the garden, three bedrooms (all with fitted carpets and blinds), a bathroom with WC, wash hand basin, bath with shower over, splash-back tiling and ceramic floor tiling, a garage and outbuilding and a garden.

For further information contact Worton Kelly on 0121 5885666 or visit www.wortonkelly.com

TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES

QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE

An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Grand reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, rear entrance hall, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/seating area with door out to a balcony. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, single garage with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£3995PCM DEPOSIT £4095 + FEES

COCHRANE CLOSE PEDMORE

A Prestigious four bedroom detached property situated in a highly desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, garage, private driveway affording off road parking, carport, lawned foregarden and rear lawned garden with patio. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£1200PCM DEPOSIT £1300 + FEES

COT LANE KINGSWINFORD

A stylish superbly appointed and spacious four bedroom detached family home situated at this highly sought after location and close to all local amenities. The accommodation comprises of: Canopy entrance, reception hall, walk in understairs store, cloakroom, lounge, open plan dining/kitchen, utility room, conservatory, four bedrooms (master en-suite) house bathroom and garage. the property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, block paved driveway and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

1200PCM

IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =: D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£950PCM- DEPOSIT £1050+FEES

MAYNARD AVENUE NORTON

A well presented three bedroom end terrace property situated in a popular residential location, accommodation to comprise of : Reception hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, the property further benefits form gas central heating, majority double glazing and front and rear gardens.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£650 PCM DEPOSIT £750 + FEES

PAVILION GARDENS DUDLEY

A well presented two bedroom modern semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having garage, driveway affording off road parking, gas central heating, double glazing and front and rear gardens. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550 DEPOSIT £650 + FEES

WATERWAYS DRIVE OLDBURY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and enclosed rear garden and off road parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£535PCM DEPOSIT £635 + FEES

HIGH STREET HARBORNE

A spacious two bedroom first floor maisonette with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts electric storage heating, roof terrace and off road parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES

WESTFIELD ROAD QUARRY BANK

A well presented three bedroom semi detached property with accommodation to comprise of lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing to the rear patio and lawn with brick built store and gravelled fore garden affording off road parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES

MADISON AVENUE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom third floor apartment situated in a popular residential location close to Merry Hill Centre, Accommodation comprises of Communal Hallway, Private Entrance, Lounge, two Bedrooms, Kitchen and Bathroom. The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Double glazing and Allocated Parking space UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B
DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM- DEPOSIT £625+FEES

HAGLEY ROAD HALESOWEN

A deceptively spacious three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having night storage heating and double glazing.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKING: NO

£425PCM DEPOSIT £525 + FEES

FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented and recently refurbished one bedroom semi detached house situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor landing with built in airing cupboard, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having lawned fore garden, bin store, allocated parking, gas central heating and double glazing. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395 PCM £495 DEPOSIT + FEES

BALLARAT WALK STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise Communal Entrance, private entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, communal gardens and communal parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES

LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM- DEPOSIT £475+FEES

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£90PW DEPOSIT £420 + FEES

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 25, 2014

Throwback to quirky era

By Bob Hickman

For quite a long time Citroën has basked in a reputation of pile them high and sell them cheap, often offered as VAT free.

We forget that years ago they used to produce some seriously quirky, interesting cars and I believe the DS5 is a throwback to that era.

The DS5 is an extremely stylish and I believe an attractive option – externally it makes a statement.

It is wide,has a very high stance and has the impression of attempting to be an SUV lookalike. It is certainly a big and bold vehicle, the amount of chrome items are a throwback to a 50s era, especially when you look at the rear twin exhaust pipes and the prominent light cluster and cooling vents.

At the front there is no mistaking this is a Citroën, DS5 makes the statement .

Citroën designers have got a little carried away in the interior, there is a bold design, a centre console actually built in to the roof, with a plethora of over-complicated switches – the number of times I opened one of the sun blinds instead of altering the depth of the brilliant heads-up speed display in the dashboard was beyond belief.

Visibility in the vehicle from a driving perspective was a little bit problematic, the high sides and the huge A pillars, and the small rear screen with the spoiler fixed mid-way did make for serious care and attention when maneuvering or reversing the vehicle. Reversing was aided by the camera fixed in to the boot lid which made life very much easier when moving in to a confined spot.

The interior of the DS5 is big and bold in keeping with its external characteristics, it is almost a twin-cockpit set up with overhead consoles and switches and all sorts of paraphernalia.

The controls are somewhat futuristic and I love the design of the quirky analogue clock that has been incorporated in to the dashboard.

It is a quiet vehicle to be cocooned in, with plenty of space in the rear for three people and adequate legroom.

Panoramic

The roof of the DS5 is a confusing feature, from outside it looks like it is painted black, but interior occupants see it is a panoramic glass roof – and driver, front passenger and rear passengers have the option of operating a sun blind to dim out the bright light, but this again necessitates one of the many quirky switches to operate.

The boot is a generous 465 litres but the sill is on the high side, making the loading, especially of heavy items, more troublesome.

The power unit in the test vehicle was a 2.0-litre 160bhp HDi turbo diesel. This has been well used and proven in both Citroën and Peugeot ranges and when allied to the six-speed gearbox should allow a 132mph top speed and 0-60 in just under 10 seconds.

The CO2 figures are not generous at 129g/km, so we will be looking not in the cheap band for road tax.

There are innumerable good points about the car; it has a distinctive executive styling both in and out, extremely high safety rating.

'The Citroën DS5 is an extremely stylish and I believe an attractive option – externally it makes a statement'

The downside, sadly, was the handling and the noise at times from the engine. There was a pronounced diesel clatter.

The handling was positive and responsive to steering input, but the vehicle was susceptible to rough roads and it transmitted it back in to the cabin all the bumps and jolts.

So a little bit more work on springing and damping to iron out these faults is, for me, a necessity.

My DS5 Sport HDi had an on-the-road price of £28,915, with extras including metallic paint at an additional price of £600, a leather pack interior at £1,690 and an enhanced hi-fi system at £550, making a total price of £31,755.

Citroëns benefit from a three-year or 60,000 miles warranty, and service intervals are scheduled at 20,000 miles.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Alto range mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km): Urban 43.5-54.3 (6.5-5.2), Extra Urban 65.7-74.3 (4.3-3.8), Combined 55.4-65.7 (5.1-4.3), CO_2 emissions 118-99 g/km and for the Suzuki Splash range mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km): Urban 40.9-50.4 (6.9-5.6), Extra Urban 56.5-67.3 (5.0-4.2), Combined 49.6-60.1 (5.7-4.7), CO_2 emissions 131-109 g/km and for the Suzuki SX4 range mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km): Urban 32.5-42.8 (8.7-6.6), Extra Urban 50.4-60.1 (5.6-4.7), Combined 42.2-53.3 (6.7-5.3), CO_2 emissions 155-139 g/km and for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km): Urban 41.5-46.3 (6.8-6.1), Extra Urban 57.6-64.2 (4.9-4.4), Combined 50.4-56.5 (5.6-5.0), CO_2 emissions 128-116 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Alto SZ4 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £399). *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £9,899 (Metallic paint available at £415). *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: SX4 SZ5 available from £13,249 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ3 available from £10,495, including customer saving of £2,100 to SX4 SZ5 4x4 available at £13,249 including customer saving of £2,650 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £12,595 (1.6 SZ3) and £15,899 (1.6 SZ5 4x4). *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport.

VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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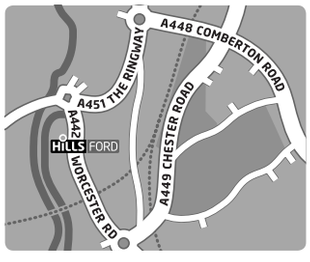

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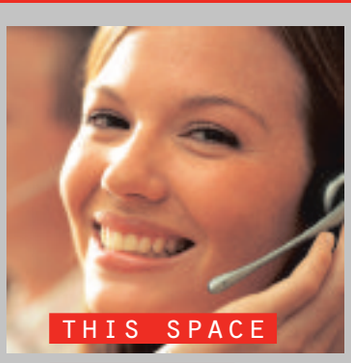

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New direction with the S-Cross

The march of the SUV, or sports utility vehicle, shows no signs of slowing down with several manufacturers announcing their first foray into this field in the past few months.

SUVs are mainly cars with the tall, chunky looks of the off-roader even if most of them aren't: buyers seem to balance appearances with two-wheel drive to save weight, fuel and costs.

It may be a surprise then that Suzuki, with its iconic Vitara and a history of almost half a century of 4x4s, has gone down a different route with its new S-Cross.

Still in car parlance a crossover (the clue's in the name), it's a family-sized hatchback with two or four-wheel drive options that's relatively economical to buy and run.

Top models have a newly developed and sophisticated four-wheel drive system to suit most conditions while remaining lively and economical – and with prices from £21,549 it costs less than some of its two-wheel drive opposition.

Its ALLGRIP system was made specifically for this car: not as many compromises as the traditional full-blown system in the Jimny, but more flexible than the ultra-lightweight rear differential developed for the smaller Swift 4x4.

Clearance

It gives the S-Cross extra capability on and off-road, where the main limiting factor is ground clearance. It certainly made light work of the forest tracks and streams encountered on a test route in the north of England, but unlike a traditional 4x4 remained economical, sharp handling and a comfortable ride on the highway.

There are two engine options, a 1.6 petrol and 1.6 diesel. The petrol version is capable of averaging almost 40mpg while the diesel's figure is a frugal 64mpg. Their 0 to 62mph sprint times are 12 and 13 seconds respectively.

Suzuki's engineers have also come up with an excellent compromise with the suspension: it's supple enough to soak up the bumps on rough tracks yet not so soft as to give you a roly-poly ride on the road. Its dimensions, without the top heavy architecture of some SUV's, helps too.

The steering is nicely weighted and positive, and from its road manners you'd never guess this was a car quite capable of roughing it.

It's as quiet and relaxing to drive as any modern hatchback, it's light but particularly stiff body aiding performance and economy while also reducing noise in the cabin.

No-one, Suzuki included, imagines you'd buy an S-Cross for serious mud-plugging: it's more for the country dweller who has rough and muddy lanes to travel, or someone who wants extra safety and security in bad weather.

The ALLGRIP control gives you a clue. The basic setting is 'auto' so the car remains in front wheel drive until they start to slip, when the rear wheels are brought into play too. It's there as a safety back-up while giving you best day to day economy. The 'snow' setting, unsurprisingly, uses four-wheel drive as the default setting while also optimises steering and accelerator inputs for maximum traction. The 'lock' mode gives you four-wheel drive for getting yourself out of mud, sand or snow.

There are 13 different S-Cross models, starting with a two-wheel drive petrol version at £14,999. There are two automatic versions, one two wheel drive and one four wheel drive, with a continuously variable transmission.

The top of the range versions are all fitted with ALLGRIP 4WD and are also the highest trim levels, which explains their price tag of up to £23,549 for the diesel flagship. The diesels also get a six-speed transmission compared to the petrol's five gears. The diesel is also the most economical, with an official average of 64.2mpg and 114g/km of CO2 emissions compared to the petrol's 51.3mpg and 135g/km.

The decision, as always, will depend on how much you have to spend and, with diesel up to 10p per litre more expensive these days, how many miles you do as to which is best for you.

While it may look smaller than some SUV rivals, the S-Cross is surprisingly roomy inside, with decent leg and headroom for five. It also has a generous cargo space, with a 430-litre boot for your luggage, which you can double by folding down the rear seats. The cabin has a solid, quality feel to it with refreshingly clear and logical controls.

The company has pitched the car just right: a spacious family transporter with an efficient four-wheel drive system for safety and flexibility without sacrificing much in the way of performance or precious fuel.

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57 Reg Skoda 1.9 TDi £4995 or £23pw

06 Reg 207cc Diesel £7995 or £37pw

Finance Example - Cash Price £4995. Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500. Amount of Credit £4495. Total Amount Payable £5999.20. 60 Monthly Payments of £99.82 or 260 Weekly Payments of £23.04. TYPICAL 10.5% APR

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07 VW Polo 1.2 E 55 5dr Grey 30k	£4,495
58 VW Polo 1.2 E 70 5dr Red 52k	£4,795

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Kingswinford 01384 296683
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www.nedowning.co.uk

religious notices

christadelphian

THE WORD OF GOD IS RELEVANT TODAY The reward for faithful obedience, September 28, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Christadelphians, FREEPOST WV1681 Kingswinford DY6 9BR for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

education & tuition

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2 Leisure Time

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6 berth, 32ft x12ft, fully equipped, 2 decked areas. On rural site in Mid Wales. 2014 site fees paid.
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Two fishing pools.
No age limit on caravans.
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caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
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Immediate collection
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TOURING CARAVAN wanted, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

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FISHING BOX with foot plate and pole accessories. £40.
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music shop

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KEYBOARD PLAYER AND RHYTHM GUITARIST REQUIRED
To complete Stourbridge based covers band.
Regular rehearsals and occasional gigs.
Would suit aged 35 - 55 years.
Vocals an advantage.
Call Rob on 07768 302397.

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Call Karl on 07578 899169.

sports & leisure

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holidays

caravan sales

3 BED 12ft WIDE STATIC caravan for sale £9,995 or £1500 deposit & £158 per month inc. site fees for 2014 season. Sited on Ty Mawr holiday park in North Wales. Excellent value for money sleeps 8, fantastic live entertainment. Indoor pool with flume and lots more. Call 01745 822373 for more info

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what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR Every month. Codsall Village Hall Sunday 28th September 9:30am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178. Possible outside stalls available.

3 Home & Services

furniture

DINING TABLE, extendable, cream Italian marble effect, with 2 Carvers and 4 chairs, very good condition, from Leekes, £350. 07837 772557.

LEATHER, THREE and 2-Seater Sofas, BHS. Chocolate brown, modern shape. Excellent condition. £300. o.n.o. 01902 895217.

STEEL FRAMED bed settee, 3 seater, brown, 73 inches w, never used, £300 ono. 01902 835951.

STRESSLESS THREE seater leather sofa, dark brown, as new, 3 months old, £2,400. 01746 712367.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition, £85.
07918 462 116.

STATESMAN SINGLE cavity gas cooker, with guarantee, as new never used. £120. 01902 892695.

in your garden

Top Soil, Building Sand
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Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

GREEN HOUSE 12ft x 8ft, to be took apart and collected by buyer. £100. 01902 845140.

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MUSHROOM COMPOST, Bags: 5 £17.50, 10 £30, 20 £50, 50 £150. Delivered. 01386 442882.
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items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

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STIHL FS108 STRIMMER. Two stroke, complete with harness, good working order and condition, £210 ono. 01902 887215.

kitchens & bathrooms

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A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

ALL BOXED / LOOSE RAILWAY COLLECTIONS WANTED
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building services

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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
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Call Paul 07870 341089

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UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

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CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

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MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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BENGAL KITTENS Brown spotted females. £300. Cinnamon spotted males. £250. 07931 221137.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS. Black/white, Red/white and a tri coloured. Good with kids. Call 07721 768462.

CHIHUAHUA SHOW Kennel has pet puppies to offer to forever homes. From £250. Vaccinated and insured. Also neutered adult. 0121 453 1354.

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For various age groups of cats in our care, all vaccinated, neutered (if old enough), microchipped, flead and wormed. Donations of £60 each. All homes will be vetted.
Wildacre Rescue
For details contact 07714 442263, 07735 516756, 07545 679475, 01902 751779.

KITTENS 9 weeks old, weaned and litter trained. £20 each.
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KITTENS X 3, flead, ready now. £30 to ensure good home.
Telephone 07765 807608.

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THREE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIERS.
FREE TO GOOD HOME
Two bitches, one male.
BABE who is 14, lovely girl, loves her food, fuss, children. No papers.
CHLOE who is 9, loves everyone, food, fuss and children. Has papers.
BUTCH who is 5, big lad, very fussy, loves everyone. No papers.
All three to be homed together if possible please.
Genuine reason for sale as moving to flat.
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TWO PATTERDALES, boys, 8 months old, house trained, good with Children, £60 each. Prefer to be homed together. 07535 259660.

World of Mobility
Manual Wheelchairs from £110
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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

accountants

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livestock / poultry

CHICKENS. Trio of Brahmas £35. Pair of Buff Sussex £20. Pair of Silkes £10. Well grown, this seasons birds. 01384 893154.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY/ Blackheath, 1,2 and 3 bed flat / house, deposit / rent neg. 0121 5500064 or 07970 980955.

DUDLEY STOURBRIDGE RD new large, fully furnished studio. £350pcm inc. 07961 173876.

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NEW APARTMENT for rent, 3 bedrooms, Bushbury, unfurnished, £600pcm. 01902 864214.

NICE ONE BED first floor flat, East Park area, C/H, D/G, no DSS. £395 pcm. 07504 517560.

PENN ONE bed / studio flats, CH, DG, from £70pw no deposit required. 07900 156313.

ROOM TO LET in nice private house, Wolverhampton suit young single male. 07970 485491.

ROOMS TO LET in shared house, near Cradley Heath Station, £60/70pw all inc. 07837 653830.

THREE BED semi detached, Russells Hall, full refurb, garage, £575pcm. No DSS. 07867 540303.

TWO BED GROUND FLOOR FLAT, with garden, 10 WV4 5UD, £375pcm. 01902 789595.

WOLVERHAMPTON 2 bed house, part furnished, large garden, £460pcm. No DSS. 07966 266154.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

mobile homes

HOLIDAY CHALET

11 month season, 2014 site fees paid. Mid Wales near Welshpool Powys, well appointed and maintained, 2-bed Omar Park Home, GCH, DG, elevated position with fantastic views.

Beautiful site with swimming pool and fishing lake, games room and tennis court.

Offers in the region of £48,000.

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LARGE TWIN PARK HOME Builth Wells, Powys. 2 x Bedrooms, both ensuite. Large Lounge, Diner, Conservatory, Garage.
£115,000.
01982 551703

houses for sale

NEAR WELSHPOOL

Lovely chalet Bungalow, in country setting. 3 beds, fully residential site fees paid until 2015, gardens all round. Must see to appreciate.

£80,000 ono

01938 811194.

properties wanted

LOCAL INVESTOR can pay 10% more than all these guys. Call Alex 07729 297901

houses for sale

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7 Jobs

agricultural

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building & construction

TARMACER Must have streetwork Licence
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drivers

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SENIOR CARE ASSISTANT for 3 nights per week. Experience essential. Also a Cook required part time, experience essential. Call Nischa (9am-5pm) 01384 379165.

SENIOR CARE ASSISTANT Full time, Dudley. Must have Level 3 or above in Care and Level 2 in Medication and completed all mandatory training. Experience with mental health and learning disabilities. Call 01384 232482 or susan.jenkins@oakleigh-healthcare.co.uk

SUPPORT WORKER Dudley. Minimum Level 2 in Health & Social care. Experience with mental health and learning disabilities. Call 01384 232482

part time - general

NEED EXTRA CASH for Christmas? £200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW X3 2.0D SPORT
Grey with black leather sports seats, 2005, all extras, 10 months tax and MoT, excellent condition, 1st to see will buy.
£5,950.
01902 493846 / 07833 053165.

CHRYSLER YPSILLON 1.2 SE, 2012, one careful lady owner, 10,000 miles, FSH, under warranty. £6,750 ono. 07729 836144.

CITROEN C2 SX 1.2, 05 plate, 114,000 miles, FSH from new, MoT February 15. Tax till December. £1,900 ono. 07986 221279.

CITROEN C2 VTS 56 plate, red, 52,000 miles, very good condition. £2,600 ono. 01902 887531.

FIAT 500 1.2 POP, 2013, 1,950 miles, special paint, as new, genuine reason for sale, must be seen, £7,000. 01384 480463.

FORD KA STYLE
2008, 32,000 miles, silver, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, stereo, CD, excellent condition.
£2,600 ono.
07812 512265.

FORD SPORT KA 2007, black, full leather, very low 39K, 11 months Mot, 5 months tax, £1,700. 07933 952966.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4 x 4, 2002, 74,000 miles, excellent condition, gold, FSH, £2,000. Please call 01902 898078. 07814 136509.

JAGUAR X TYPE 2.1 V6
2004, metallic grey, 6 disc player, black leather, nice condition, reverse sensors, MoT, tax 12 months, 64k.
£2,900 ono.
01902 842380.

KIA PICANTO, 07, full MoT, 6 months tax, 5 door, alloys, CD player, good condition. £2,275 ono. 07535 074158.

MG ZT V6 AUTO 2002, silver, LPG converted, 66,000 miles, Taxed, MoT'd, FSH, outstanding condition. £1,850. 01902 238904.

MINI COOPER
2008. 33,000 miles.
FSH. Private Plate. Extras include JCWorks spoiler. Alloys. Tyres. Triptonic gears. Car is like new.
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0753 4445804.

MINI COOPER S 68k miles, 10 mnths MoT 4 mnths tax, met blue with white roof, bargain must be seen. £2,950. 07850 113660.

NISSAN X TRAIL 2.2 Diesel, 56 reg, black, 150k, short Tax and Mot, well serviced, very clean. £2,995. 07796 761902.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve, 5dr, red, 2006, 68,879 miles, FSH, MoT March 15, new cambelt, £2,495. 07890 025585.

SUBARU FORESTER X
2.0 Diesel, 2008 (58), manual, 6 speed, 69,200 miles, metallic, taxed, MoT, fsh, alloys, electrics, AC, heated windows and seats.
£7,550.
01902 380424 07935 006253.

TOYOTA AYGO. 5-dr, 06 reg, 59k, black,long Tax/MoT,60mpg. Immaculate. £2,950. 07850 330251. Genuine Callers only please.

cars under £1500

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AIXAM A751 SUPERLUX. Petrol, 3-dr. 2006, 30,000 miles, MoT Nov. Good condition. Offers around £1,500. 01902 650305 after 6pm.

BMW 316 ISE 2001. Black, 4-dr, 132k miles. Needs new clutch plates. £550. o.n.o. Telephone 07592 330314

CITY ROVER SOLO 04, full MoT, tax, low mileage, excellent condition £650 ono. 07980 832319.

DAEWOO LANOS S reg, silver, 1349cc, tax / MoT till April 2015, 76k miles, sale due to illness £450 ono. 01384 443311. 07966 743505.

DAIHATSU TERIOS
2003, 122,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, MoT, central locking, pas, tax, alloys, stereo, CD, 4x4.
£1,500 ono.
07801 599836.

FORD FIESTA 1.3, 03 plate, 2 door, red, alloys, tax, MoT, 65,000 miles, some service history, very good condition, £1,295. 0121 5444023.

FORD FOCUS GHIA 2003, 116,000 miles, blue, MoT, Taxed, Nippy £750 ono. 07946 630461

FORD KA, 2006, 60,000 miles, grey, MoT, tax, leather interior. £1,250 ono. 07940 162439.

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54,000 miles, 1996., Japanese made import. Sport mode, pristine condition and drives perfectly.
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Diesel estate auto, W reg, silver, tax January, 12 months MoT, good condition, mechanically excellent, inspections welcome.
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07977 335335.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX, 53 reg, met light grey, low mileage, tax, MoT, good condition, ideal 1st car. £1,000 ono. 01902 561728 or 07835 160148.

PEUGEOT 206 52 reg., Lady owner, 92K, tax Feb 2015, MoT Jun 2015, new brakes and clutch. £595 ono. 07980 123220 / 01562 630076.

PEUGEOT 206,(05).5dr petrol,EW, A/C,CD,long Mot,1 previous owner low miles 95,000. £1,250. Excellent condition 01902 426256 / 07429 999105

RENAULT CLIO, 2003, 2 door, 1.2, metallic blue, low miles, long MoT, EW, CL, £895 ono. 07792 000500.

RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 2005, 7 seater, 1.9 DCi, diesel, top spec, private plate, MoT and tax, excellent runner, £1,495. 07472 084811.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 Diesel, 2004, full MoT, 2 months tax. £900 ono. 01902 590279 / 07866 926448.

SKODA OCTAVIA 2003, silver, 1.6 petrol, MoT till Jan, tax Feb, excellent runner, £850 ono. Please call 01902 827562.

SUZUKI WAGON R+ SPECIAL Auto 02 reg, 10 mths tax, 9 mths MoT, FSH, low mileage, Excellent condition. £1,200. 01746 862341.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2002, 74,000 miles, silver, air bag, MoT, auto, central locking, pas, tax, CD, £1,200 ono. 07855 490203.

VW GOLF, blue Y reg, Mk4 1.9SDI, 5 door, 112k miles, tax and MoT, CD, a/c, pas, electric windows, £1,275 ono. 07754 557861.

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commercial vehicles

LDV TWIN WHEEL pick up, 53 Plate, MoT Jan 2015, tax December, excellent condition, ready for work, £1,500. 07836 651889.

MERCEDES 308 DIESEL PICK UP 51 reg, MoT Jun 2015, tax Feb 2015, very clean and tidy. £1,550 01384 288271 / 07885 332933.

PEUGEOT PARTNER white van, 2000 reg, tax and MoT until Jan, £550. 07958 680488.

RENAULT KANGOO van, 2002, 1.9 diesel, 98,000 miles, full tax and MoT, cracked screen, £475. Please call 07423 058212

VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi, 06, 1 owner, white, long tax and MoT, excellent condition, first to see will buy, £1,895 ono. 07939 483221.

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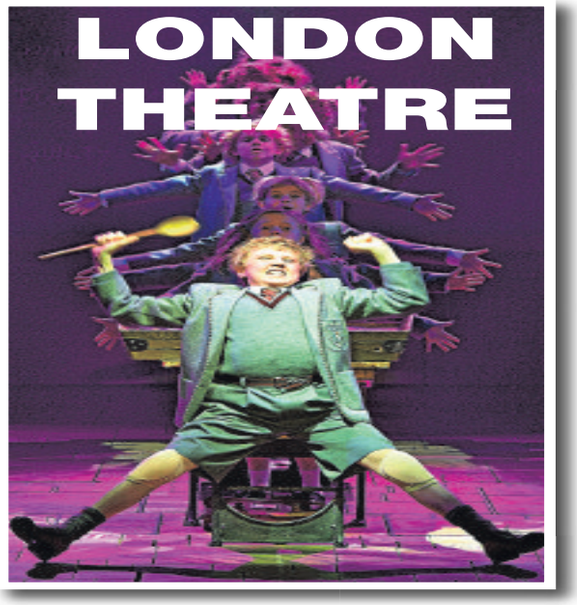

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

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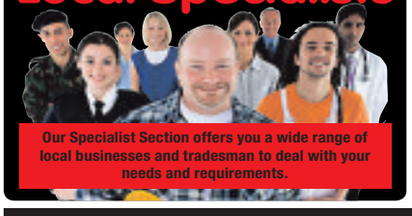

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   Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
   The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability The Company's** liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
   Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
   Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
   To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
    All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
    Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
    Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

To advertise your business and reach more than 56,000 potential customers...

1. Call us on... 01384 399903
2. E-mail us at... paul.rae@expressandstar.co.uk
3. Post to... Paul Rae, Stourbridge Chronicle, 3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Making Friends

Try it.. You'll love it!

YOUR local dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR area..***

Here's how to use your dating service ...

Place your advert call:
0844 887 2293
and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To ***Reply*** to members from your landline call:
0906 500 3955
calls cost £1.53 per min

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** to members from your mobile call **68118**
calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges

Or ***Text***..**REPLY26** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26**123456 ***hi get in touch...*** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date ***ONLINE***
YOU can now date online or via your **mobile**
Simply ***VISIT*** us at:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies on:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.53 per min

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you***.. ***visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

ARE you Mr Wonderful? Lesley attractive slim auburn haired fit lady who loves life and fully intends to live it to the full, seeking similar caring, patient man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414213**

SAMANTHA, solvent, sensual business women, 38yrs, travels a lot and seeks fun on the road. I'm married so please be discreet. **Box: 4495859 Text Only**

KATY 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed blonde looking for mature gent for some uncomplicated fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414209**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297**

ANNABELLE 29 slim tanned beautiful sophisticated sensual brunette, loves the high life, Champaign lunches, weekends away, seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet nothings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414191**

JASMINE, 22yrs, seeks older gent for daytime meetings as she works a nightshift most days. **Box: 4495860 Text Only**

SARAH 38yr old bored blonde seeking single guys up for some good times, chats and discreet meets. Looking forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414177**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

EMS 32yrs petite young looking, pretty, likes swimming, walking, talking etc, seeking honest bloke or dad up to 40yrs for fun adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413853**

FIONA, young 32yrs, seeks uncomplicated fun with chap any age or area, texts only please, I'm nervous on the phone. **Box: 4495861 Text Only**

NATALIE 22yrs attractive brunette nurse, very slim, athletic figure, many likes, few dislikes, WLTM male up to 38yrs to stay at home and have some fun with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413839**

PLACE YOUR AD BY TEXT

SIMPLY TEXT: REG followed by your FIRST NAME, DATE of BIRTH, AREA and YOUR ADVERT (max 155 characters) and SEND to **80098**

REG 80098 Send

FREE (Standard Network rates apply)

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127**

MAZ 36 petite curvy big blue eyes, loves music, beach walks, cosy nights with good conversation and nice wine, seeks similar likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413571**

SALLY, 36yrs, married but husband works away seeks discreet gent any age for fun only. **Text only Box: 4492484**

HELEN feisty redhead with many interests including beach walks and quiet nights in, looking for male with GSOH and a passion for travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413869**

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Married exciting men please apply. **Tel No: 0905 002 1933 Box No: 412933**

ANN slim attractive widowed but not past being loved lady, loves travel, country good conversation, WLTM kind genuine male, 35-65 for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413453**

PHILLY, 20yrs, just left college, seeks older man for daytime fun, must be discreet as she has strict parents. **Text only Box: 4492485**

JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413415**

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 412369**

ANITA seeking nice man in the West Midlands, 50-70 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413765**

LINDY, 43yrs young, married with husband away. Seeks discreet gent any age/area for no strings. **Box 4459439 Text only**

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTM N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413441**

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399**

JENNI, sensual lady, 23yrs seeks mature experienced man for no strings, daytime fun. **Box 4459440 Text only**

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs, likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin, seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413207**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987**

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

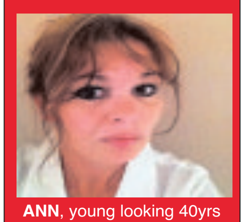
JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

PROMOTIONAL ADVERT OF THE WEEK



ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. ACA. **BOX NUMBER 412369**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777**

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119**

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049**

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641**

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949**

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. pls no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263**

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT AND INCLUDE YOUR PHOTO!

For just £4.50 your ad and pic will appear in a box this size Simply text: PICREG followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert. (max 155 characters), attach your photograph and send to 07786200066. Cost £4.50 (3 x £1.50)

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

EASY and Friendly Guy seeks Female 19 to 40 for good times and fun loving enjoyment. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4502128**

TALL divorced male looking for lady, small/med build for a long and happy relationship, non smokers please. I like hols, pubs, pictures, walking and more. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4184039**

JAMES, 45yrs, solvent caring gent, recently divorced seeks genuine lady to wine and dine. Single mums welcome. **Box 4459441 Text only**

MATURE male, 6ft, GSOH, fit, active, loving, honest, N/S, seeks female with similar qualities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414261**

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151**

EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54, slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, GSOH, seeks female, 41-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413925**

JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous, cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks similar fun female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414067**

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414063**

MALE requiring female company, enjoys evenings in, sports and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414059**

GEORGE 60 seeks Asian/Oriental female for no strings fun and weekends away. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413707**

STEVE 60, seeks slim blonde for no strings fun and weekends away. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413703**

ROBERT 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413655**

MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun times. Must accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413819**

ALAN 49, seeks lady for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413757**

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375**

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315**

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413183**

GENT widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, likes music, good food, country pursuits, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413173**

TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413275**

6FT 1ins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413193**

JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic, seeking new female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413053**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for friendship/relationship, 35-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413107**

RETIRED male, seeking no strings adult fun and frolics, discretion assured, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413067**

TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049**

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KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869**

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867**

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859**

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705**

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633**

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523**

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481**

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483**

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261**

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083**

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227**

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeking younger female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087**

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989**

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901**

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801**

MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673**

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505**

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335**

Men seeking men

MATURE male, young looking, many interests, GSOH, seeks similar male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413953**

DIVORCED male, young, fit 50, generous, own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-20 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412727**

YOUNG male, 25, educated, likes arts, dogs, travel, classic cars, comedy, seeks similar older male for LTR. London/Shropshire anywhere. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412463**

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Villa are positive despite Arsenal sickener

Football

ASTON Villa are at Chelsea on Saturday and Gabby Agbonlahor is staying positive despite the loss to Arsenal.

He said: "We've had a kick in the teeth but we'll be back."

If Paul Lambert and his men were feeling queasy before this game, they were sickened by the end of it.

Against Arsenal, a sickness bug that swept Bodymoor Heath played a part in an ultimately subdued home performance at odds with the form that had taken Villa to second place in the Premier League.

Danny Welbeck put the knife in by opening his Arsenal account as the Gunners blew Villa away with an astonishing triple blast.

A brilliant first-half spell from the visitors saw Mesut Ozil open the scoring before Welbeck struck and Aly Cissokho's own goal made it 3-0. The goals came in three minutes and 15 seconds to end Villa's promising early threat.

The hosts would have gone top with a win but despite a bright start they were carved apart in their first defeat of the season – one watched by chairman Randy Lerner, taking in his first for almost two years.

Ashley Westwood pulled out of the Villa squad will illness during the warm-up and was replaced by Carlos Sanchez, with Joe Cole added to the bench.

Ciaran Clark also replaced Nathan Baker from the 1-0 win at Liverpool to partner Philippe Senderos. Ron Vlaar failed to shrug off a calf injury which kept him out of the Anfield victory, with Jores Okore included on the bench.

And Villa took advantage of Arsenal's early indecisiveness as they made a strong start. Fabian Delph forced Wojciech Szczesny into a low save after just two minutes following the goalkeeper's poor clearance.

Welbeck fired over in response but Arsenal were given little time to settle by a vibrant Villa side. But the Gunners stunned Villa with three quickfire goals to win the game.

Chance

Clark had a chance to haul Villa back into the game on 57 minutes but was thwarted by Oxlade-Chamberlain. Villa's threat had waned and Arsenal were in cruise control as they eased to victory while the home side could only ponder convalescence.

Lescott: My debut was very special

JOLEON Lescott has declared his winning Albion debut 'extra special' as he hailed their tactical success at Tottenham.

The former Wolves star produced a man-of-the-match performance in his first competitive appearance for the Baggies in the 1-0 win at Spurs.

Albion's first victory of the season lifted them out of the relegation zone and up to fifth from bottom.

And Lescott was full of praise for the way Albion's game plan worked as James Morrison's 74th-minute header clinched their first win at White Hart Lane for 30 years.

"It was nice to play and perform like that, the way we did as a team, and then to get the win was extra special. It was a massive result," said the 32-year-old.

"I think it was a very well-organised and disciplined performance by the team. The manager worked hard and we all worked hard all week implementing what he wanted us to do on the training pitch and it all worked out."

Lescott was even close to a debut goal but his effort hit defensive partner Craig Dawson and his team-mates gave him some stick for that.

Lions rip Stour apart after injuries hit team

Leicester Lions 42 Stourbridge 17

THE writing was on the wall for Stourbridge as early as the seventh minute when Ben Hughes and Stef Shillingford limped off.

The young Leicester Lions team smelled blood and took full advantage, running the ball at an underpowered Stour who succumbed to their first and biggest reversal since the 38-8 drubbing handed to them by Darlington Mowden Park last November 30th.

Rugby

The hosts took advantage of the disruption to force flanker Drew Rudkin over from short range in the 9th minute.

But despite the early substitutions and having to play up the slope in the first half, Stour then managed to put the hosts under pressure. Firstly, number eight Chris Depper scoring from a short-range catch and drive and then forcing two yellow cards for 'red-zone' defensive offences.

Penalty

With only 13 defenders, Stour's pack had the opposition backpedalling in the scrum and referee Callum Howard awarded a penalty try as they transgressed again. That left Stour a 7-12 lead but that was to be their high watermark in this game.

Flanker Eji Uzoigwe took a knock and was replaced by Drew Harper as Lions' centre Jon Williams added a penalty kick to his earlier successful conversion, his second successful penalty shortly after establishing a 13-12 halftime lead for the hosts that looked a not-insurmountable hurdle for Stour with slope advantage to come in the second half.

With the Stour attack camped out in the hosts 22 but failing to penetrate the defences, front-row subs Adan Sturdy and Jordan Page were introduced 10 minutes into the second half to add fresh impetus.

But the siege was lifted as the hosts turned over a ruck on their own line, wing Devon Constant broke free and ran the length of the pitch before feeding number eight Rob Young for their second try.

The hosts' tails were up and Page was yellow carded for an off-side offence. As Williams slotted the penalty to move the score on to 23-12 Dale Garner had to come back on and Depper answered the call to cover inside centre. Lions took full advantage of the extra man.

A late rally by Stour saw winger Jamie Hearn score a try wide out, but the damage had been done.

The match on Saturday is an away trip to Huddersfield. There is rugby on Saturday at Stourton Park when the Lions take on Old Saltleians, kick off 3pm.

Tank powers on with sixth stoppage win

Dudley's Ryan Partridge wins on his pro debut

Ryan 'Tank' Aston, from Dudley, on his way to victory

Dudley's Ryan 'Tank' Aston made another statement by scoring his sixth stoppage from 13 wins as a professional boxer, dropping Polish visitor Mariusz Biskupski to the floor twice at the Venue in Dudley at the weekend.

The first punch of the first round felled the veteran, who protested a slip to Wolverhampton's Gareth Morris after going to ground, under the pressure of a body shot. Aston settled quickly and didn't rush his work even when Biskupski came forward.

He took his best shots before knocking all of the air out of him one minute and eight seconds into the fourth round of a scheduled sixth.

Dudley debutant Ryan Partridge recorded a great result on his paid bow, making first opponent Ben Robinson quit on his stool just two rounds into their light middleweight contest. Robinson retired, claiming a hand injury after being dropped twice in the previous session.

A right hookdumped put him back down but, again, he survived to the end of the round, although he refused to come out for the third.

Coseley's Ryan Corrigan made it four wins from five paid contests with a comfortable win over Sheffield's Ryan Hanson, stepping in at late notice to go four rounds.

Olsson is still 'a key man' at Baggies

DELIGHTED Alan Irvine insists Jonas Olsson remains a key player for Albion after dropping the Swede for his first win as Baggies boss.

Irvine preferred summer signing Joleon Lescott for the 1-0 win at Tottenham with Olsson left at home after mistakes in the defeats to Swansea and Everton cost his side early goals.

Lescott responded with a commanding Baggies debut as James Morrison's goal gave Albion a first Premier League win of the season to ease the pressure on Irvine.

But the Scot insisted Olsson still has a major role to play.

"Jonas wasn't injured," said Irvine. "I spoke to him on Saturday and told him what my intentions were.

"That wasn't easy because I have a lot of respect for Jonas. He's a top professional and a very good player.

"But he knows that he made a couple of uncharacteristic mistakes in the last couple of games that have been costly.

"For the first time I've had a full range of options available this week and that makes your life more difficult in some ways because I had some big decisions to make."

Darts Slam back at the Civic again

WOLVERHAMPTON will host the Grand Slam of Darts for the ninth straight year in 2015.

Wolverhampton Civic Hall will stage the tournament from November 7-15.

And the event will carry world ranking points for the first time in its history, giving players an extra incentive to do well with performances counting towards the PDC Order or Merit.

This year's Grand Slam of Darts, with a total prize fund of £450,000, will start at the Civic on November 8 with defending champion Phil 'The Power' Taylor looking to win the title for the sixth time in eight years.

Taylor won last year, beating Scotland's Robert Thornton 16-6 in the final.

Runners in top 20 at big event

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Harriers AC senior men finished an excellent 17th in the Midland 6 stage Road Relays at Sutton Park as over 80 teams competed.

Lee Slater on first leg gave the club a great start as he came home seventh in a time of 18min 18sec. Veteran M50 runner Paul Waby, using the race as a warm up for next week's Notts marathon, ran 20.12 as the club dropped to 14th.

Dave Ratcliffe had a good run with 20.46 for 17th as Dave Nation brought DASH up one place to 16th with 20.09. Scott Palmer ran the fifth leg in 21.40 as the club went back to 17th. Last-leg runner Robert Meredith with a solid time of 20.54 brought the team home.

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SPORT

Relay success
Stourbridge team in top 20 at big event
Page 35

Debut win
Partridge stops his first professional opponent
Page 35

Chances missed in latest Yeltz loss

HALESOWEN slumped to their fourth Northern Premier League defeat in six games despite having a number of chances to gain at least a point.

They started brightly, Iyseden Christie getting the ball in the net early on, but it was disallowed for a foul on goalkeeper Josh Cook.

Chris Lait went close on 15 minutes as he cut into the penalty area and forced a save out of Cook.

Ashton United gradually got into the game and had a goal disallowed when Martin Pilkington got a touch to a low cross but the referee ruled he had handled.

Robert Thompson-Brown had two good chances for the Yeltz in quick succession before the break, and they also started the second half well, Christie's attempted header flying wide of the right-hand post and Tom Tonks blasting the ball over the bar a minute later.

Kayde Coppin came on as a substitute for Ashton and caused havoc, giving them the lead on 59 minutes from a tight angle.

Pilkington nearly doubled United's lead just a minute later, but his chip shot hit the wrong side of the post and went out.

Halesowen's final chance came in the dying seconds of the game, as Ben Haseley's header skimmed a post.

DK optimism did not last

Following a more encouraging performance against Scunthorpe, Dudley Kingswinford travelled to South Leicester with a degree of optimism.

However, during the second 40 minutes this optimism turned to despondency when errors started to creep into the DK performance and their cause was not helped with two yellow cards to go with one received in the first half.

Both sides started the game by trying to play open rugby with DK making an encouraging start.

But DK made too many mistakes against a team with a big, powerful set of forwards.

The home side took total advantage and ran in a further three tries.

DK replied with a consolation penalty by Kieran Pinches. Final score, South Leicester 37 DK 6.

Penalty king Ikeme is 'Premier League class'

Football

WOLVES match-winner Carl Ikeme is Premier League class according to team-mates after his superb performance against Bolton.

Ikeme saved Owen Garvan's 58th-minute penalty and also thwarted Joe Mason and Liam Feeney as Bolton tried to hit back in Saturday's 1-0 win.

The 28-year-old shot-stopper kept his fourth clean sheet in eight games with Wolves boasting the best defensive record in the Championship, after just three goals conceded this season.

Right-back Matt Doherty said: "Ikeme was the hero for us again like he's been a number of times.

"He's one of the best goalkeepers I've seen, he's definitely top Premier League standard and we're lucky to have him.

"He's so good, we don't even realise."

Goalscorer Nouha Dicko added: "It's thanks to our goalkeeper Carl Ikeme – he had a really good game and all the credit has to go to him.

"He's really good and he's been that way for a couple of seasons now. Last season he was in really good form and I think maybe he should have won player of the year.

"He showed again what an important player he is at the weekend.

"He's proving one of the best keepers in the Championship and he's proving it every week by making great saves."

Both Dicko's goals this season have been headers and the pint-sized striker wants to prove he can be an aerial threat.

"It's the kind of goal I really like because people don't expect me to score with my head as I'm short," he said. "I know what people think but I like to prove people wrong! I've shown it twice this season by scoring with my head and I'm not scared of any defender.

Fitness

"I had to go and win that ball for myself and the team. Hopefully there will be more to come with my head."

Dicko went off at half-time with a tight hamstring but is hoping to be fit for the televised Sunday lunchtime trip to Reading. "It's nothing too serious but the physios didn't want to take any risk," he said. "But I think I'll be OK for Sunday."

GLASSBOYS TO HIT THE FA CUP TRAIL

STOURBRIDGE hit the FA Cup trail again on Saturday.

They will play away at East Midlands Counties League side Blaby and Whetstone Athletic in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup.

The Leicestershire-based side have previously made home advantage tell by beating two higher level clubs.

The lower-league outfit put out Southern Leaguers Stratford Town in the Preliminary Round, beating them 1-0, and they followed that up by beating Tipton Town of the Midland Football League Premier Division 4-1.

At the weekend, Stourbridge were unlucky not to grab a point from a close Northern Premier League game against Curzon Ashton which was settled by a first-half goal.

The Glassboys created more chances than the visitors but frustratingly found it very hard to break them down in the final third of the field.

Saved

They started the brighter and Reece Hales went close as early as the seventh minute with a good turn and shot before Curzon captain Samuel Walker produced a shot which was saved by Dean Coleman.

Then he went on to chip a free-kick over the bar.

The goal came in the 28th minute when Curzon goalkeeper Hakan Burton punted the ball downfield.

The Stourbridge defence appeared to stop, thinking there was a foul, but play continued and Luke Horrocks squared the ball for Niall Cummings to score.

Stourbridge worked hard to try and get back in the game, Jordan Fitzatrick

Football

testing Burton with a shot two minutes before the break after Ben Billingham supplied him.

After the re-start, a curling free-kick by Louis Harris was tipped around the post by Burton and substitute Matt Wood went sliding in on 77 minutes from a tight angle but the ball just went wide.

With two minutes remaining, Hales put the ball in for Josh Craddock to turn and hit the underside of the bar with a fierce shot, putting the rebound over.

Curzon Ashton are now second in the league and Stourbridge are sixth.

Stourbridge: Coleman, Benbow (Smikle 44), Knight, Ramsey Dickson, Hales, Harris, Haynes, Richards, Brown (Wood 72), Billingham, Fitzpatrick (Craddock 67). Subs not used: Canavan, Francis.

● A good number of Stourbridge supporters are expected to travel over to Leicestershire for the FA Cup tie. In view of this, the club is willing to run a supporters coach to this match, leaving the ground at 11.15am..

England squad call-up for Charlotte, aged 12

Charlotte Bardsley has been selected in the development group of Table Tennis England's 28-strong England Youth Squad. The 12-year-old Stourbridge youngster, who attends Heathfield School in Wolverley, is in the 15-player development section of the squad, which was announced after skill and fitness assessments of all the players who applied to join the squad at an assessment day at the National Sports Centre in Lilleshall. The squad members will attend regular training camps and will work more closely with England coaches at their clubs.

Dicko is expected to be fit

KENNY Jackett is stressing there is no panic over Nouha Dicko, despite the striker picking up a hamstring injury.

Dicko scored the only goal in Saturday's 1-0 win against Bolton – which moved them up to third in the Championship– but limped off at half-time to be replaced by Leon Clarke.

Wolves haven't been able to finalise a deal for Southampton's pacy forward Emmanuel Mayuka while news that ex-Molineux hitman Steven Fletcher is out of favour at Sunderland will not have gone unnoticed.

But publicly, the head coach is only looking at his current squad and is confident Dicko will be fit for the televised Sunday lunchtime trip to Reading.

"He had a very tight hamstring but we don't think it's pulled," said Jackett.

"All being well he'll be OK for Reading. "

Regarding the signing of a loan striker, Jackett said: "If we can improve our squad we always would but it doesn't suddenly make it more urgent. But we now play Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday and that's a key period for the squad."

Jacobs and Rowe can't stop defeat

FIRST-TEAMERS Michael Jacobs and Tommy Rowe couldn't prevent Wolves Under-21s suffering their third defeat in four games at Molineux on Monday.

Both got 90 minutes against Middlesbrough. Rowe levelled for Wolves with a stylish finish in the 54th minute but Boro won it a minute from the end.

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